CLOTHING

DRAWER 2 MARY TODD LINCOLN - FIRST LADY

Mary Todd Lincoln

Clothing

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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THE UNION BALL.

Mrs. Lincoln was superbly dressed in a blue silk, trimmed with point d'Alencon lace, and wore a blue ostrich feather in her hair, which was exceedingly becoming. The President and his attendants promenaded to and fro through the room several times, bowing to the right and left in response to the innumerable salutations.

Atla. Argus — March, 1861

8. [illegible] Mar. 15, 61

MRS. LINCOLN AND MRS. HAMLIN. The following is the pen portrait of the lady of the White House, as sketched for the American press:

Mrs. Lincoln is about forty years of age, with hair of a dark brown color. Her head is large and well developed, presenting the organs of firmness and language in a highly developed and well matured condition. Her forehead is broad, her eye clear and intelligent, and rather blue than gray; her mouth is well shaped and capable of great expression, while her chin rounds gracefully, balances properly, and goes in a quiet way toward the indorsing of our opinion, that she is a decided—not obstinate—woman. Her form inclines to stoutness, but is well fashioned and comely, while her hands and feet are really beautiful, indicating, as does the well shaped ear, that she has come from a race of people who were happily born. Her carriage is good, her manners are pleasant, her greetings are affable, and, without doubt, her intentions are correct.

That Mrs. Lincoln went to the White House versed in the goodly knowledge of housewifery and substantial living, rather than skilled in the cunning tricks of politics and *blasé* with the excitements of Washington life, is a feature of congratulation rather than for deprecation. She began life with Mr. Lincoln when he was a poor young man, with no more idea of being called to the Presidency than of being a cannibal; she has pursued a quiet home life, rearing and educating a happy family, cheering the man of her choice as he passed through the stormy scenes of life, and content if, in all things, she made a good wife and a competent mother. She was suddenly called to fill an unaccustomed position. To it she went, taking with her her sound substratum of common sense, her natural tact, that great aider of us all, the esteem of those who knew her at her old home, and the best wishes of every woman in the land.

The New York World gives the following sketch of Mrs. Hamlin: "Mrs. Hannibal Hamlin is the daughter of the Hon. Stephen Emery, a distinguished lawyer, and for many years a judge of the Supreme Court in Maine, who resides at Paris Hill, a romantic village, and the shire town of Oxford county. She is the second wife of Mr. Hamlin, and a younger sister of his first wife. She has been married some four or five years, and is the mother of a charming boy. She is of medium height, possessing a fine form and figure, with auburn hair, a clear, fair complexion, expressive eyes, and a voice at once mild, musical, and sweet. Her kind heart, amiable disposition, and frank, genial manner, won for her at home the choicest friendships, and will insure her in the federal metropolis that respect and admiration which the best qualities of the female character are ever sure to command."

MENAGE OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

The President's Lady Shopping in New York—Her Thriftiness in the Matter of Small Things—Her Liberality in Great Ones—Her Marvelous Good Taste—Her Bills Unreceipted—A Model for Housekeepers.

Mrs. Abraham Lincoln came to the White House with staunch republican notions. She did not see how the wife of the President should be widely different from the rest of her sex; and the nation, which had been accustomed to respect the ladies of the President's family, soon found that the new incumbent coveted notoriety. She laid by her country-clothes at once, and aspired to lead the fashion of the land. This her position warranted her in doing, so far as expenditure was concerned; but her education gave her no claim to set her subjects correct taste. She ordered, as we all know, the best Inverness tapestries, the handsomest barouche and ponies, the best furniture and upholstery, and clothing herself in the richest material of the country, soon became by all odds the most-talked-of woman in America.

Anybody visiting Washington could see her seven times a day on Pennsylvania avenue. Her features became common; and those who could not see her in person were gratified with a photograph which a dinkey photographer obtained and copy-righted. It represented a sallow, fleshy, uninteresting woman in white robes, and wearing a band of white flowers about her forehead, like some over-grown Ophelia.

Then Mrs. Lincoln assumed to lead society; she associated herself with folks equally questionable and notorious. The Chevalier Wykoff, a barefaced adventurer, was established to be the first gentleman in the nation; and the wives of certain journalists, not in the best esteem, became her gossips and companions. She introduced sensationalism into the White House economy; courted low company in her innocence of what was superior; and forgetting that her husband's rank made her the) head of her sex, desired more tangible tokens that she was so. This example, of course, her doubt about the matter.

When Miss Chase, the Sewards, etc., gave great dinners to embassadors, poor Mrs. Lincoln conceived that she must out-marshal them, forgetting that the President's wife must acknowledge no rivalry. Then she traveled around the country to the various watering-places, and became jostled of all low company in hotel-halls, in public dining and drawing rooms, on common promenades. Finally, she stamped the country by her famous ball on the battle-nights, which George H. Baker, since her poet-laureate, commemorated with so soothing a poem that we might almost doubt its originality with him, "The Queen Must Dance".

Only the death of her little boy could bring this vain and foolish woman to her senses; for a time she scandalized the nation no longer.

We regret to say that Mrs. Lincoln has learned nothing by either reproof or misfortune. Her career as Mistress of the White House proves either the inability of experience to correct bad education, or the incapacity of education to teach good manners to one without discretion.

We do not believe that any woman, even among the middle classes, of tradesmen, small merchants, etc., possesses so unenviable a reputation. Nobody has arraigned her virtues; she is accused of no excesses of any sort; but she has made a most unhappy record. She did not know the world, and aspired to lead it, like the dunce who drove Apollo's horses and broke his neck.

She does her own shopping and trading; and we could write up quite a book of scandal thereabout.

We only say this to show the ladies of the land that the re-election of Old Abe must involve the re-installation of his wife in the Capital, to which we are certain, they will object.

MRS. LINCOLN AND THE DENTIST.

About two years ago, one of the members of the Lincoln family was troubled with "a raging tooth". A dentist was summoned to the White House, the urbane Dr. —— living on Pennsylvania avenue, near Tenth street. He took his case of instruments under his arm, and hastened to the residence of the Chief Magistrate, where the whole family were assembled around the juvenile sufferer.

The tooth was out in a twinkling; the blood washed away, and quiet restored in the imperial palace.

The surgeon-dentist started to go. Mr. Old Abe looked at him dubiously, as if half expecting that the honor of pulling the tooth of a Lincoln was pay enough.

"How much do you charge, doctor?" he asked.

"Two dollars and a half, Madam."

Mrs. Lincoln bit her nails, nudged Old Abe, and trotted her foot.

"Why—why—" she said, "we have never paid more than fifty cents for having teeth drawn."

"Madam!" cried the dentist, flushing. "I am glad to make you a present of my services. I do not leave my office at short summons for half a dollar; and I charge nothing, therefore."

But Old Abe followed him to the door, and gave the sum first demanded.

MRS. LINCOLN AT THE HOTELS.

Mrs. L. does not know how to travel. She makes much fuss at hotels, and objects to being charged for it. Fuss costs money in public places; so do feathers; and our Queen of Burlesque is recognized by both. It is, to say the least, undignified, to see the President's wife wrangling over the items of her bill, and she does so in such a way as to impress proprietors with the opinion that she should be charged nothing at all. At a first-class Boston house, not long ago, Mrs. L. had a most wordy discussion with the head bookkeeper, a scene appropriate rather to Fulton Market than to the best chambers of the best hostelry. In this city she goes to a private house generally; but we understand that her limited hotel-experience here does not belie her adventures elsewhere.

MRS. LINCOLN AND THE THEATRE-FOLKS.

The Mother of our country is a sad deadhead. She would kill the credit of a newspaper.

The theatrical people particularly dislike her. She is in the habit of ordering a row of the best seats at Grover's or Ford's, and sweeping out of them without any gratuity.

Recently, when a famous tragedian was playing at Washington, she sent by word, to the box-office, this message:

"The President's wife wants two private boxes."

"Where is the money?" said the treasurer.

"Mrs. Lincoln never pays anything."

"Then, d—n me!" said the treasurer, "if she can have any box in the theatre."

So does the wife of our Chief Magistrate render herself liable to daily insult.

MRS. LINCOLN AMONG THE DRYGOODS MEN.

We do not mean to betray any private confidences, or we might give some spicy scenes in the drygood emporiums of this city on the occasion of Mrs. Lincoln's business-visits. We should not speak of the feeble-minded lady at all, if her folly did not tempt rebuke. What is town-talk, is bound to get into print. Now, the drygoods folks are very jealous of Mrs. Lincoln. She is querulous, close; and, if we must say it, very mean. She will go to Stewart's, for example, pull down all the goods in the place, bully the clerks, falsify or question the additions, and, in the end leave without settling her bills. We understand that she owes large shopping-bills to various parties of this city, which she does or does not mean to settle at her leisure. Now and then her orders come from Washington: "Send me samples of your very best heavy velvet"; or, "Send me the lowest prices and samples of your best white dress-satins". Odd garments, truly, for a woman weighing a hundred and fifty or sixty pounds. Some of the salesmen in the best houses have avowed that they will never wait upon her again.

THE PRESIDENT'S LADY LEADING THE FASHIONS.

We have recently seen what we forbear to publish, a list of the various costumes in which "the President's Rose" has appeared in public places. There can be no character so indecorous as that of a woman, without taste, and possessing the simple requisite of money, attempting to set the world the example of dress. We have never had a similar attempt in the history of the Republic, as the ladies of all our Presidents have managed their household exclusively, so officious that the nation had not elected them to the Chief-Magistracy. But Mrs. Lincoln lays herself open to particular censure, as all her social ambition goes awry. We have had Alexandra robes, and Euchel head-dresses, and nameless garments bearing the name of Eugenie; but nothing carrying the name of "the Lincoln". The only habits characteristic of that family are the Scotch cap and the long inverness cloak, with which its male representative scudded through Baltimore. We have been assured, that Mrs. Lincoln's agents have offered inducements to the leaders of Metropolitan fashions to design a garment to be called the "Lady Lincoln". She even wished, at one time, to have the name of the revenue cutter "Harriet Lane" changed to the "Lady Lincoln", which would have led to the reiteration of various absurd jests, worthy of Old Abe, about the Lady Lincoln being struck in action, etc., etc. Every now and then, we see in our English exchanges, sly stabs at the mistress of the White House in her absurd costumes, written by errant Britons whose familiarity with well-bred people leads them to despise the ambition of our parvenu queen. We have had sufficient contempt flung upon the country by this oddness, not to pass her singularities further without rebuke. Mrs. Lincoln was a more conspicuous personage in her obscurity than in her elevation. The same may be said of Old Abe.

All who have had the advantage of Mrs. Lincoln's society report her as a coarse, vain, unamiable woman, who is tolerated merely as the wife of the Chief-Magistrate. She has less taste than any woman in the land of half her pretensions. She does not distinguish the *grande monde* from the *demi monde*. She has no conception of dignity, and has all the peevish assurance of a heedless parvenu.

We pity Old Abe that his domestic horizon was so early beset with clouds; but in this selection he interposed no more sagacity than he has since displayed as the ruler of the Republic.

We must rid ourselves of all the Lincolns, or we shall experience that demoralization of manners which attend all people who are governed by folks of low degree. We put this fact in the ears of the ladies, to induce them to save the domestic as we are striving to save the national credit of the country.

THE PRACTICAL COOK-BOOK. By Mrs. H. M. Robinson. This is a very interesting and valuable work. Published by Abbey & Darrott, New York.

NEW MUSIC.—Messrs. Firth, Son & Co. have published "The Little Brown Cot on the Hill"; words by M. J. Millios, music by F. B. Isaacs. Both words and music are very pretty.

"Mrs. Lincoln looked extremely well, and was attired in a most elegant manner; her dress was made of white satin, very ample and rich, but almost entirely covered by a tunic or rather skirt of the finest point applique. Her corsage, which was low, and the short sleeves, were ornamented richly by a bertha made of the same material, and the shawl, also of the same rich lace, was most exquisite. Passementerie of narrow fluted satin ribbon and nouds completed the dress. Her jewels were of the rarest pearls--necklace, ear-rings, brooch and bracelets. Her hair, which was put plainly back

from her face, was ornamented with trailing jessamine and clustering violets most gracefully. She looked exceedingly well with her soft, white complexion, and her toilet was faultless."

Modern Conversation 5-9-65

THE INAUGURATION BALL.

An event of special interest in the fashionable world, during the past month, was the grand Inaugnration Ball which took place at Washington on the evening of the 6th of March, and may be considered as closing the fashionable season.

The arrangements for a brilliant opening of Mr. Lincoln's second term were made with great liberality, and were entirely successful. Nothing could exceed the imposing grandeur of the spectacle which the great Hall of the Patent Office presented when the august assemblage, composed of the President and his lady, the Foreign Ministers with their wives, the Heads of Departments, and five thousand of the most distinguished people from different parts of the country, was complete.

The scene impressed us as being fully equal to the more ceremonial, but not more striking, pageants of the old world.

The toilettes were, many of them, magnificent. We give a few from memory.

Mrs. Lincoln's consisted of white satin with an elegant white lace flounce, festooned at the side with heavy, white silk cord and tassels. A bertha of point lace ornamented the low neck, and a costly point lace shawl covered her shoulders. Her hair was worn in curls and adorned with white and purple flowers. Pearl necklace and ornaments; bouquet and violets.

Another white satin dress was looped over an under-skirt of scarlet satin covered with white tulle puffings. Little bodice of scarlet satin, trimmed with narrow silver fringe, over low, white satin body, edged with tulle and blonde.

A charming dress of white crape was made with double skirt, spangled in very effective style with tiny gold bows. The low body was ornamented with a square bertha, puffed and dotted, with bows to match the skirt. Hair rolled high and powdered with gold.

A rich dress of crimson velvet, was made with Pompadour [illegible]-t, trimmed with point lace. Ornaments, diamond necklace with pendants, and diamonds in the hair.

A rope of corn-colored *moire antique* displayed a long, gracefully trailing skirt, entirely plain, but edged with rich, crimson girdle cord. Plain high body, with points, and epaulettes tastefully formed of crimson cord and tassels. Narrow open sleeve, laced with crimson cord at the bottom.

One of the most elegant dresses was made of plain wine-colored satin, extremely rich in quality, and displayed to advantage upon a faultless figure.

Another plain dress which attracted admiration was of rich, black satin, worn with a wide scarf of white *tulle*, tied at the throat with bow and ends. A tie of the same light material floated over the hair at the back, descending below the waist.

Mme. Demorest's Mirror of Fashions
April 1865

—— Mrs. Lincoln's wardrobe is advertised to be sold in Providence.

—— St. Paul, Minnesota, offenders are

A telegram from New York states that Mrs. A. Lincoln, "owing to the inadequacy of her income, has been obliged to offer for sale some forty five thousand dollars' worth of jewelry and dresses."

The inadequacy of income which constrains Mrs. A. Lincoln to sell so great a quantity of meretricious trinkets is of course to be very profoundly deplored by the American public.

There was a time when "republican simplicity" would have regarded forty thousand dollars' worth of jewelry as an amount rather larger than necessary to adorn the person of an American President's wife.—That time, however, was before the election of "Honest Old Abe." It was a time when the country was at peace; when it did not owe a debt of three thousand millions of dollars; when the people were not taxed at the rate of forty dollars *per capita* for every man, woman, and child; when a dollar would purchase the value of a dollar; when the cry of distress did not come up from women and children perishing of starvation; and when the art of manufacturing money with a steam printing machine had not been discovered.

Times have changed since then. The politics which then guided the affairs of the nation have been set aside. A new party have come into power. Things have been reconstructed. That which was adequate to the lady of the White House when Washington, Madison, Jackson, Polk and others sustained the high dignity of republican simplicity in the presidential office, no longer suffices when the party of great moral ideas sways the sceptre and holds the purse.

Formerly, the expenditure of forty thousand dollars for jewelry by a president's wife, even in prosperous times, would have been enough to insure the defeat of the party that should presume to defend such a use of the president's salary. But, as things now are, it is lamentable that an inadequate income should constrain the relict of the late A. Lincoln to reconvert forty thousand dollars' worth of jewelry into a portion of the presidential salary that went to pay for these emblems of republican simplicity.

1867

MRS. LINCOLN'S EFFECTS.

Comments of the Radical Press—Curious Statements—Outbursts of Moral Wrath Against a Woman.

[From the Rochester Democrat.]

Mrs. Lincoln, the widow of the murdered President, has made an exhibition of herself through the columns of the New-York WORLD, which we are sorry to see for her own sake and that of her family. She has ostentatiously sent to New-York *for sale* certain articles of her wardrobe, such as camels hair shawls, varying in value from three hundred and fifty to fifteen hundred dollars, point lace shawls, worth two thousand dollars, and a dress of the same material valued a four thousand dollars, a fur carpet fifteen hundred dollars, a fur cloak at twelve hundred, together with diamonds, &c., to the total value of twenty-four thousand dollars. She pleads poverty as the reason for disposing of these articles, and authorizes THE WORLD to state that her income is but $1,700 a year, and she also authorizes the publication of her letters to the banker in New-York to whom she has consigned the articles for sale. In this correspondence and in her conversations with THE WORLD reporters, she complains bitterly of the country and of the Republican party, and especially of Messrs. Seward, Weed and Raymond for not providing for her "rightful maintenance," as she terms it. These three gentlemen are the only ones she names, probably because they are the most unpopular she can think of, and she declares that "the late President thoroughly tested these men and had become fully aware before his death of their treachery and falsehood."

This is sad, very sad—but it is none of our funeral. We are not responsible as Republicans for Messrs. Seward, Weed and Raymond, who have forfeited all claims upon the party and have done all they could to destroy it, though the last of the trio has had the grace to confess his fault and to return after a dubious fashion to his allegiance. But bad politicians and recreant republicans as they are, Messrs. Seward, Weed and Raymond are assuredly gentlemen, and we are confident can never have treated Mrs. Lincoln otherwise than with courtesy and delicacy. Her ring at them is doubtless a mere ebullition of feminine spite. Her letters are coarse and vulgar from their publication a refined woman would have shrunk with horror. The whole proceeding is obviously a mercenary advertising dodge to advance the sale of the articles sent to New York. The prices affixed to these articles are sufficient to refute Mrs. Lincoln's plea of poverty. If she is poor, it is because she has wasted her resources in the purchase of articles of luxury to which she had no claim. What business had she with lace dresses worth four thousand dollars each; or with four camel's hair shawls worth two thousand dollars, or with furs worth thousands? In the first of the letters, where she falsely assumes the name of Mrs. Clarke, she states that these articles were presents from her friends. We do not believe it. She has been extravagant, and must take the consequences. She has lavished the money given to her by the nation on diamonds, furs and laces, and if she has seventeen hundred dollars a year left, she has enough for a woman of her education and social position. Her conduct during her husband's life was not such as to commend her very strongly to public favor, and this extremely unfortunate correspondence and its very indelicate publication have deprived her of all further claims to consideration or respect.

[From the Albany Journal.]

We publish to-day a scathing commentary by the New-York *Commercial Advertiser* upon the recent movements of Mrs. Lincoln, in connection with the sale of surplus articles from her wardrobe and her jewellery. It is very severe; but public opinion will pronounce it just. It is difficult in such a case as this to speak in deserved terms of the misbehavior of an individual, more especially when that individual is a woman, and one who has by virtue of her connections occupied the exalted position of First Lady of the republic. But it cannot be disguised that in the course she has seen fit to adopt, Mrs. Lincoln has dishonored her country, herself, and the memory of her lamented husband. It is impossible to think without chagrin and mortification of the criticisms which will be pronounced upon our character abroad in view of this spectacle—the widow of a President hawking her surplus apparel, and with a view to creating a market for her wares, charging her countrymen with meanness and ingratitude, and threatening to make revelation of personal secrets, unfavorable to those who have been prominent in public affairs. By this conduct, Mrs. Lincoln invites and justifies animadversion upon herself. She suggests inquiry respecting her career as mistress of the White House, and as to the methods in which she became possessed of the magnificent articles which are now offered for sale. And she revives the whisperings which prevailed during the life time of her husband, that Mr. Lincoln in his great mission, was not aided and blessed by the wisest and best of wives. Congress voted to Mrs. Lincoln the sum of $25,000. In addition to this, she had some property, which was accumulated by her husband in the practice of his legal profession. She herself says that besides owning a comfortable home, she enjoys an income of $1,700 a year. A woman of native pride and modesty, gifted with tact and prudence in management, would live very handsomely upon this sum. There are many widows, whose husbands fell upon the field of battle, who would be very thankful to receive one-third as much. Mrs. Lincoln has not therefore the plea of necessity to warrant her most unfortunate exhibitions. The American people are never disposed to be ungenerous. They would not permit the widow or children of their martyr President to suffer. But it does not follow that they are under any obligation to encourage tastes and habits of extravagance, or to so enrich Mrs. Lincoln that she may enjoy in a private sphere those luxuries which she was able to command as mistress of the White House.

[From the Pittsburg (Pa.) Commercial.]

In the New-York WORLD we find an extraordinary series of letters concerning Mrs. Lincoln and her wardrobe. We scarcely know how to characterize the spirit of these letters or the taste that dictated their publication. Our first theory of the case would be, that the whole affair, correspondence and all, was a fabrication for damaging the Republican party, casting a slur on our late lamented President, and sacrificing the character of Mrs. Lincoln. But the letters appear as genuine in the papers. Our second theory then is, that Mrs. Lincoln has been led into her terrible mistake by designing men of the Democratic party. THE WORLD, which seems to be perfectly posted in all the minutiæ of the business, says: "The question was asked Mrs. L. what her feelings were in regard to the Republican party, &c." THE WORLD *could* tell, perhaps, who asked that leading question, that drew from the poor woman an answer so exactly to its own wishes. On this theory we examine the case. Mr. Lincoln, a plain living, economical man, was estimated, on his decease, to be worth $70,000. If his salary was spent, he did not spend it. And his wife could hardly have spent it, since the costly articles offered for sale, valued at $24,000, were gifts to her, as we are assured by herself. But according to her own statement, she had $25,000, and no debt, two and a half years ago. What has become of that? And further, with an income of $1,700, the pressure of party could not be so severe, as the letters represent, requiring her to *sacrifice* one-third of the appraised value of the articles in order to get the avails in a week. The language, the temper, the statement of the letters of Mrs. Lincoln appear like a piece of over-acting in a constrained part. The conclusion to which any one accustomed to weigh internal evidence will come is, that, if the letters are genuine, Mrs. Lincoln, whose judgment and taste have never been rated high, has been beset and prompted by cruel and unscrupulous advisers in the interest of the Democratic party, that they might have the denouement to publish just on the eve of election. The adroitness of the WORLD, in throwing in its comments and drawing its inferences, indicates a noticeable familiarity with the transaction, and a steadiness of purpose to make it available. The WORLD also intimates, although the last date given is not a week previous, that other correspondence is in its hands, to be published when it shall see how this is received. We do not like to say anything to the disparagement of Mrs. Lincoln. If the letters were written of her own free impulse, they speak harder than we could bring ourselves to speak. If they are fabrications or have been drawn out by cunning and deceitful men, all we have to say it is a most cruel thing to her. In either case, it is too obvious and malignant, and the statements too incredible to do any damage to the Republican party. It is our opinion that Mrs. Lincoln could not, so far as she herself is concerned, do a more injudicious act than provoke such a [illegible] which certain persons, for whom she evidently entertains no friendly feelings, could make.

[From the Philadelphia Telegraph.]

In the *Evening Telegraph* of yesterday we published the correspondence between Mrs. Lincoln and Mr. Brady in full. The above covers all the additional particulars, collected by a corps of Jenkinses, upon the subject. It will be remembered that Mrs. Lincoln denounces only Raymond, Seward, Weed, and Wakemen as ungrateful Republicans. As these men have all left that party, our Radical friends may rest easy under the anathemas of Mrs. Lincoln. She says, moreover, that she still loves the Republican party. We do not wish to speak about this sad and disgraceful affair at length, but as leading Democrats have made this exposure for party capital, we feel it a duty to notice it thus far. *We happen to know that offers of assistance have been made to Mrs. Lincoln since her return from Europe by prominent Republicans, in a quiet and appropriate way. These tenders she has refused most ungraciously.* She is said to be incited to her present course by certain members of the Todd family, who are her relatives. That Mrs. Lincoln is not treating the friends of her late husband justly may be seen in the fact that nearly all the articles offered for sale were presented to her by admirers and partisans of the lamented Lincoln, her husband, as tokens of their love and respect for him.

[New-York Despatch in Pittsburg Commercial.]

NEW-YORK, October 4.—Mrs. Lincoln still remains here, and insists on the sale of her personal effects at auction. *Prominent members of the Union League visited her last night, and offered to raise a large sum of money for her support, provided she will return, and take her clothes back to her house. This offer she refused in the most ungracious manner, and said she was bent upon punishing certain prominent politicians,* among whom are Weed, Greeley, Raymond, Seward, and Johnson.

[From the Springfield Republican.]

That dreadful woman, Mrs. Lincoln, who is in the open market with her useless finery, will not let the people either forget her or remember her only with respect as the widow of a beloved patriot and revered President, as they would be glad to do, but persists in forcing her repugnant individuality before the world, to the great mortification of the nation, and the scandal of all real friends of her husband. In order to drive a better bargain with her jewels and clothes, she has written various vulgar and unwomanly letters, and caused them to be published in the New-York papers. The gentleman to whom the goods were sent tried to persuade her to withdraw them, but without avail, and then to get prominent republicans to take them privately at such prices as would satisfy her demands. This also failing, she instructed him to put them before the public as hers.

[From the Cleveland Herald.]

Our readers in perusal of the article we copied from the New-York WORLD will agree in this, that the disclosures made therein is very indelicate on the part of Mrs. Lincoln, and sadly discreditable to that person; for, of course, the private letters there spread out are published with the knowledge and consent of the writer. No person would be justified in dragging Mrs. Lincoln before the public, and in probing the domestic affairs of the White House, *so far as she was instrumental in their administration*; but Mrs. Lincoln has herself come before the world, appealing to the public for sympathy, and if that appeal results in disclosures damaging to herself she can alone be held responsible therefor. It has been believed that charity and oblivion were the cloaks that should cover Mrs. Lincoln's career as Mistress of the White House, and a generous public has been willing such should be the case; but if Mrs Lincoln will not permit it, on her own head must lie the consequences. Congress has been charitable, too, for it is well known that investigation has been suppressed through a regard for the feelings of that lady. But we hope that nothing will now be kept secret, and that we may know the whole truth in the premises—let the scalpel of investigation cut where it may. A lady whose early life was one of very simple indulgences, and whose sphere was one of very limited circumference, suddenly raised to the possession of an income of seventeen hundred dollars per year, with a profusion of shawls ranging from seventy-five dollars to two thousand dollars, with dress patterns costing four thousand dollars, with flounce worth one hundred and fifty dollars, a parasol costing two hundred and fifty dollars, and a handkerchief valued at eighty dollars, with diamond rings to match, cannot expect plain, economical people to believe her when she complains of being pressed for means of common subsistence. The facts are just these: Judge Davis, Lincoln's administrator, reported that the estate was worth $70,000. Congress gave Mrs. Lincoln the President's unexpired year's salary, and also gave her $25,000 besides, the same as was allowed the late Mrs. General Harrison. Congressman Wentworth pressed Mrs. Lincoln's claim for one hundred thousand dollars, but Congress did not think such a gift justifiable. There are other facts that should see the light, and perhaps would explain Mrs. Lincoln's present *straightened* circumstances. Among such facts is this, that a bill for some $15,000 for jewelry purchased by Mrs. Lincoln was presented to Congress and disallowed, and the secrets of that committee could divulge most remarkable items that through Mrs. Lincoln were presented for payment. We hope these things will all be made public, and that it also may be known what the forty huge boxes sent to Chicago from the White House, after the death of Mr. Lincoln, contained. Let the country know the fact that it required an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars to make good the spoliation at the White House, and let it be proved who had the benefit of such pinndering.

Another Radical Attack Upon Mrs. Lincoln.

From the Mac-a-cleek Press, (Don Piatt, radical) 1867

It is difficult to conceive of anything more humiliating to an American citizen than the late conduct and correspondence of Mrs. Lincoln, which the democratic press has seized on and spread before the public with shameless avidity.

How this differs from the course pursued by one of their most distinguished leaders. Senator Bayard had at one time given him some accounts from the white house by a republican committe of the senate, with the understanding that what he determined on the committe would indorse. A few days after, to the astonishment of the committee, the eminent senator returned the accounts marked 'approved,' and, when asked for an explanation, said: "Gentlemen, this woman is the wife of our president. Any assault upon her is an attack upon ourselves. Let us say nothing about it."

In the same spirit, the committee from the house, appointed to investigate the condition of the executive mansion, immediately after the death of Mr. Lincoln, suppressed the shameful facts that came to its knowledge.

Now, however, the democratic press, in hopes of damaging their opponents, drags Mrs. Lincoln and her conduct before the world. Well, it is shameful enough, God knows, but in what way it is to attach to the union organization we are at a loss to discover. That the advertisement, so widely made at this woman's request, exhibits not only her greed, but the corrupt condition of the government in which she took so prominent a part, we are prepared to admit and in this view is damaging to the late administration. But the cry of ingratitude is too silly for serious refutation.

It was known to the wide circle that business or social life brought in contact with the executive mansion, that its interior was as gross, vulgar, and corrupt as it was possible for any house to be and retain even a semblance of respectability. The startled public now reads its history in a 40,000 dollar wardrobe, made up of shawls, laces, and diamonds, the gifts of 'dear friends,'—how 'dear' the public is now realizing in the millions that shameless thieves have stolen and are yet stealing.

The saddest part of all this is the tarnish it casts upon the sainted memory of the martyr president. How was it possible that these gifts from 'dear friends' were paid for in lucrative offices, given under the signature of Abraham Lincoln, without that shrewd man being aware of the infamous character of the official, and the nature of the bargain that brought him into office? This is a surmise only, but Thurlow Weed seems determined to bring the business home to the late president. Commenting on the late conduct of Mrs. Lincoln, he says:

"But we happen to know—the late Caleb B. Smith, then secretary of the interior, being our informant—a fact which incensed Mrs. Lincoln against Mr. Seward. The President gave Prince Napoleon a dinner, for which Mrs. Lincoln sent to the secretary of the interior for payment, a bill of some $900. This demand, though wholly illegal, coming from the president's wife, embarrassed the secretary, who called upon the secretary of state for advice, where he learned that Mr. Seward had also dined the prince, having the same number of guests, and giving them a duplicate of the dinner at the white house. In fact, Mr. Seward ordered both dinners from the same restaurant, and by his own bill knew the cost of each. For what Seward had paid $300, Mrs. Lincoln demanded $900. But, whether three or nine hundred, the claim was alike illegal, and could not be paid. For this, however, Mrs. Lincoln quarreled with Smith and Seward. This amount, however, was subsequently covered up in a gardner's account, but occasioned scandal, which respect for Mr. Lincoln measurably suppressed."

Mr. Weed might have added the fact that this refusal to approve of a bare-faced swindle cost Smith his seat in the cabinet, Mr. Lincoln so far sympathizing with his wife in this extraordinary transaction.

Mrs. Lincoln was not only as unprincipled and avaricious as the late sale indicates but she was, and is, exceedingly ignorant and stupid; and yet how are we to account for the control she exercised over the domestic life and public affairs of the lamented president?

We remember how pained the loyal hearts of the union were to learn that in the darkest hour of our national pride, when our armies were paralyzed by imbecility and our treasury was being robbed by dishonest agents, while the artillery of the enemy echoed through the very halls of the capitol a dancing, drinking entertainment, or ball was given at the white house.

This was shocking but it became horrible when the fact leaked out that, while the noise of revelry shook the time-honored mansion, in one of the upper chambers a child of the host lay dying of a fever that had set in and alarmed the family physician when the cards of invitation were being issued. 11-5-1867

We turn away from the inner life of this white house, that was indeed a whitened sepulchre, in sorrowing disgust, and feel ashamed through all our being that the curtain was ever lifted to let light in on its loathsome contents. 1867

J Wm. Hoyt

HER DETHRONED MAJESTY.—The N. Y. News of the 12th in the course of a column or more of gossip concerning the old clothes of the "L. L." says:

"Mrs. Lincoln is extremely vehement in her protestations against the Republican party and more especially against some of its prominent leaders. Has written several bitter letters against them. She say that she can crush the Republican party, and one point she dwells on at some length and it is that she has it in her power to show up some of the shabby transactions of some prominent Republicans, in cotton shoddy, their speculations in steamship and the manner in which they made themselves independent while in the quartermaster's and commissary departments"

We hope she will give the public the benefit of the showing up, by all means. Don't spare the mercenary wretches, dame but give us the benefit of all the particulars. They wi l undoubtedly furnish excellent, amusing, and instructive reading for the million. 11 12. 1867

The effects of Mrs. Lincoln, which were offered for sale in New York, are thus spoken of by a lady:

"With the exception of the lace and the camel's hair shawls, and a few odd pieces of jewelry, there is nothing that any lady co'd wear, or which, in its present condition, would not be a disgrace to a second hand clothes shop. The dresses, those that have been made up and worn, are crushed, dirty, old fashioned, and most of them made and trimmed in the worst way. 12 3 '67

HER BARGAIN.

Mrs. Abraham Lincoln a Close Trader.

She Insisted on Having Her Contract Fulfilled.

But She Was Most Liberal Buyer for Herself.

Journal Aug 11

"I always connect the wife of the War President with a piece of 12½ cents delaine."

The speaker was a prominent merchant on Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, one who during the war had the best retail mourning dry goods shop in that city.

"To associate Mrs. Lincoln with dress is not hard to do," said a listener, "for she was notably extravagant. It is vouched for by authority that when she was complaining most of the insufficient appropriation made her by Congress her trunk was filled with handsome remnants she could never use. But the story. Well, it was in the early spring of 1863, when ladies doing their shopping looked for the latest novelties. My attention was directed one day to a lady glancing through a heaped pile of dress goods thrown out for her inspection. They were the most expensive stock and of course the highest priced. I made a mental note of the fact that the saleswoman had mistaken her customer in showing such fine and high priced goods to a person in such ordinary attire and one who had so few attributes of what is termed a 'purchaser' to a well-practised eye. I noticed particularly that everything that was shown her called for the expression:

"'Too high, too high; I can shop cheaper on Broadway, New York.'

"After listening for some time to these and similar remarks I concluded to ask the lady to favor me with her name, thinking she might be a customer at a New York branch house. To my great surprise she told me her name was Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. I confess I felt somewhat confused, as I had classed her as a No. 1 shopper that would ultimately end in asking for a few samples to compare.

"After some time and discussion she made quite a large purchase—say $132—and on winding up asked me if I could find for her a dress pattern that would not cost over 12½ cents a yard, as she wished to give her housekeeper a dress and did not care for an expensive one. Now in those days 12½ cents per yard was equal to nothing, and 18-cent chintz was the 6¼-cent of today. She was so persistent, however, in her demands that I brought to my memory a few yards of spotted delaine which was in three different lengths and told her she could have them at her price, 12½ cents per yard. She willingly purchased it, and the order was to send the package to the Continental Hotel and she would take it home with her.

On looking for the three remnants I found that the third one had been used as a cloth to dust the shelving, nothing being cheaper for that purpose. It was really in too bad a condition to send to any one, much less the wife of the President, so I thought best not to send the other two pieces. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon a most common looking hack stopped at the door and the coachman, well matched to the hack, came in the store and said to me, 'Please, sir, there is a lady in the carriage wants to speak to you.' I went out to see her, when to my astonishment there was Mrs. Lincoln, all alone and 'fire in her eye.' As we say nowadays she went for me 'tooth and nail' for not sending her the delaine dress pattern.

"Well, Mrs. Lincoln implied that I did not send the cloth because I sold it to her too cheap. In vain I pleaded my cause as stated, offering her the two remnants, eight yards, at her price. She accepted and took it into the carriage with her.

"Thus ended my trading with the highest lady in the land, with the only exception that eight months elapsed before the bill was settled, though regular monthly statements were sent. When the check did come Mr. Lincoln had told his Secretary to say that he had never seen or heard of the bill or purchase, or the amount would have been paid long ago."

Mrs. J. H. Brown of Springfield, Ill., died at Duluth, Minn., yesterday, at the age of seventy-two years. She was one of the historical characters of Illinois. She was a loyal friend of Abraham Lincoln, to whom she was distantly related, and was one of Mary Todd's bridesmaids when the latter became the wife of Mr. Lincoln. After Lincoln became President, Mrs. Brown was a frequent caller at the White House. Mrs. Brown recently completed her "Reminiscences of the White House," which will appear in a magazine during the year.

Boston Transcript 9-24-95

A contemporary in speaking of Abraham Lincoln's failure to appear at his own wedding when the time was first set adds, "But Mary Todd forgave her frightened lover, gave him a Bible for a peace-offering, and they lived happy ever after." H—m! Happiness is a comparative term. There are those who insist that Lincoln was a martyr even before the Civil War.

Journal Dec 11 1895

CHICAGO GIRL WEARS MRS. LINCOLN'S INAUGURAL GOWN AS BIRTHDAY GIFT

MEMORIES of a stressful, wonderful time in the history of the United States cling to the velvet folds of Estelle A. Wood's birthday gown.

The rich draperies once swept the chambers of the White House. They were spread upon the seats of the state coach in Washington and put away in scented closets by the hands of a President's wife. They felt the beating of a woman's heart thrilling to her husband's triumph and quickening in anxiety and suspense at his danger.

The gown, given to Miss Wood by her father, William F. Wood of 3841 Vincennes avenue, for her seventeenth birthday anniversary, once belonged to Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

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Mr. Wood purchased it recently from Mrs. John T. Grimsley of Springfield, Ill. The dress had belonged to Mr. Grimsley's sister, who was one of Mrs. Lincoln's bridesmaids. It came into her possession after the assassination of Lincoln, when Mrs. Lincoln gave away all her gowns to her nearest friends as mementos of her life as the first lady of America.

It was made by one Anne, an octoroon slave on the estate of the De Trouville family of New Orleans, La., friends of Mrs. Lincoln. Anne's fame as a cutter and needlewoman was countrywide and during Lincoln's terms as President she made special trips to Washington to make gowns for Mrs. Lincoln.

The gown pictured was made by Anne for the Lincoln inauguration in March, 1861. It has not been altered. Even the original hooks and eyes are intact upon the bodice.

It is made of purple or rich, pansy-colored velvet, piped in white silk. The lining is of delicate lavender silk. The simple bodice is concealed under a smart little Eton jacket, ending in points over the front of the full skirt. Pearl buttons are used upon the jacket. The wide sleeves are capped just under the shoulder by leaf-shaped epaulettes of the velvet, piped in silk.

Miss Wood declares she never will part with the gown.

"It is the most wonderful birthday present I ever received or hope to receive," she said.

1916

Springfield Ill. Journal
Feb 12 1918

Knew Lincoln

RESIDENT OF CITY WORKED ON WARDROBE MRS. MRS. LINCOLN.

Mrs. Cynthia Smith of Princeton avenue, a little old woman with bent shoulders and grey hair, can recall many incidents of interest in the life of Abraham Lincoln. For Mrs. Smith sewed for the Lincoln family and many a stormy night when the wintry winds whistled around the Lincoln home Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln kept her over night.

So Mrs. Smith is familiar with the home life of the greatest man of the nation, knew his moods and his disposition.

This little woman put the finishing touches to the underwear that Mrs. Lincoln took to Washington. She made Teddy's double breasted coats with bright buttons and his baggy trousers that he might make a good impression on Washington society.

Mrs. Smith learned to love Mr. Lincoln, as other people had, because he was kind, because the big man with big plans had a big heart and thought about the little things that make one happy.

"Sometimes he would say, 'Goodmorning little girl,' and sometimes it would be something else but he never forgot to say a cheery word to the little girl in the sewing room. I was only fourteen then."

Mrs. Smith always gives a warm welcome when I call. She doesn't always recognize me at first for her eyes have grown dim from sewing.

When I brought out the often disputed question, was the emancipation proclamation purely a war measure or did it have root in the humanitarian, Mrs. Smith was ready with an illustration.

"Mr. Lincoln was the saddest man I ever knew," she said. "When he came home to dinner after hearing that he had been elected president of the United States, he seemed not to notice that the boys and I were waiting to be served. Mrs. Lincoln, planning her leave taking, was happy at becoming mistress of the White House.

"We shall be happy there," remarked Mrs. Lincoln that day.

And here Mrs. Smith, looking into the open fire, stopped talking to dream of her reminiscences.

"And what did Mr. Lincoln say to this," I asked finally.

"Mr. Lincoln put his hands over his face and when he removed them we saw there were tears in his eyes."

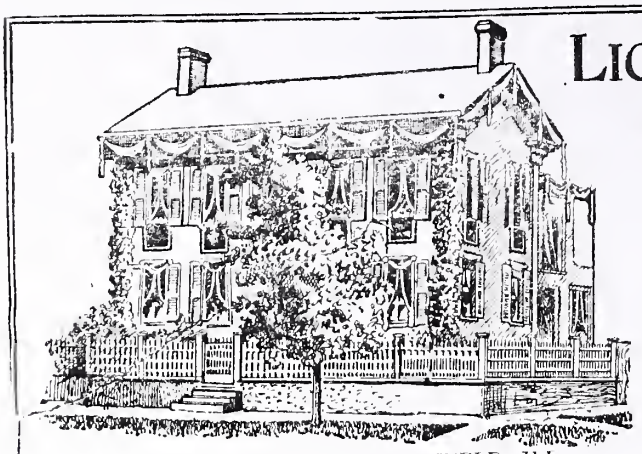
I sat thinking and Mrs. Smith seemed to read my thoughts.

"No, child, Mr. Lincoln wasn't a coward. He said he felt he would never live to carry out his life's work. He would be shot, he said."

Mrs. Smith added that Lincoln remarked that day: "When I become president I shall set the negroes free."

"I ate very little that day," said Mrs. Smith, still reminiscent, "and soon went back to the sewing room to put thirty tucks into Mrs. Lincoln's petticoat, all by hand, too, and embroider the flounce, besides."

Mrs. Smith is living with her husband at 1001 Princeton avenue and is still sewing. She makes several quilts each year but this is only for pastime.



LINCOLN'S HOME IN SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS IN THE LIFE OF MRS. LINCOLN

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By

Rose Gouverneur Hoes

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BACK in frontier days in Kentucky, a state noted for many things besides chivalry and fine women, in the very heart of the blue grass region, lived a little girl named Mary Todd. Her father, Robert S. Todd, was for many years President of the bank of Kentucky at Lexington, and it was under happy and affluent surroundings that Mary spent her early childhood. History has little to say about the first twelve years of her eventful life except that she was a healthy, romping lassie who jumped rope, rolled hoop and nursed her pet doll baby just like any other youngster over a hundred years ago. But these were the good old days now almost entirely relegated to the past, when small girls found the keenest pleasure in playing with dolls, the mother instinct strong within them. Mary's mother, Mrs. Todd, like the other young matrons of the village, sometimes gave tea-parties to the young people, when the little guests were bidden to come and bring along their inanimate babies. These occasions were feasts indeed, that were always looked forward to and eagerly consumed by the diminutive mothers in which the wax and china children took a "make believe part." Hospitality then abounded everywhere, and each child present was cordially urged to eat all the "goodies" she could contain. And generally speaking the small pockets of the appreciative little guests were stuffed with the remainder.

It is certainly pleasing to recall in this year of grace, when so many children have ceased the doll playing habit and hug Teddie bears, that some of the games played by old-time children were responsible in a measure for certain traits of character which stand out in bold relief in the lives of our distinguished women. As a single example of this pleasing fact the story is told that Mary Todd was particularly devoted to her toy children. And in glancing back dispassionately over her conspicuous career it is apparent that the mother love was the strongest sentiment of her nature. It is a well-known fact that in subsequent life for a time her mental vision was partially wrecked by the death of two of her children, promising, immature lads.

Just about the time the young womanhood stage of life was reached, Mary Todd's father made a second marriage. Meanwhile the motherly child had developed into a headstrong, quick-tempered individual, who found life impossible under the same roof with a stepmother. And it was to avoid unpleasant complications that she gathered up her worldly goods and went to live in Springfield, Illinois, with an older sister, Mrs. Minian W. Edwards, who from her earliest childhood had exerted a strong moral influence over her. "In the fifties," throughout this whole western region, Mrs. Edwards was regarded as a brilliant, gifted woman, and her house was the *salon* where distinguished men and women gathered for social intercourse to discuss the live topics of the day. It was during this period of her life in her home by adoption, upon the authority of Mrs. Edwards, that Mary Todd, then just "a slip of a girl," announced one day to her family and friends in somewhat forcible language that some day she would be mistress of the White House. And so the case proved, a fine example of the maxim, "coming events cast their shadows before."

DRESS WORN BY MRS. LINCOLN AT INAUGURAL BALL.

At this stage of life Mary Todd is described as being about the average size, compactly built, with brown hair and bluish gray eyes. During her life in Kentucky she had been well educated at a school kept by Madame Mantelli, and later at Miss Ward's academy, an institution of learning to which many Northern people sent their daughters. Living under Mrs. Edwards' roof, surrounded by culture and refinement the Kentucky lass naturally attracted the young men of Springfield, and doubtless led many of them a merry dance. Shrewd as an observer, her cutting sarcasms combined with great affability and candor pleased them no less than her varied accomplishments charmed those of more advanced years. It was just after her arrival in the village, it is related, she was attending a party given by a girl friend, when a young man engaged her for a waltz. As they glided along the youth realized that he had never danced before with any one who moved with such ease and grace. In a decidedly awkward fashion a few minutes later, thinking that she would be pleased with a compliment, he modestly told her that he was conscious of his own awkwardness, but likened her movements to the ease of a serpent. The strange comparison was as unfortunate as it was hideous, but the words were uttered too late for recall. With eyes that flashed fire, Miss Todd retorted, "comparison to a serpent is rather severe irony especially to a newcomer," and then she vanished out of his sight.

Through the influences of a warm personal friend, Abraham Lincoln, who was practicing law in Springfield, was induced to call on Miss Todd at the Edwards' residence. A number of years earlier in life he had passed through a romance of great reality, in fact the crowning passion of his life, the memory of which was still throwing a melancholy shadow over his pathway. Whilst living in New Salem, Illinois, he formed a deep attachment for Anne Rutlege, a daughter of James Rutlege of South Carolina, who a few years previous had come to live in this Western village. She was a beautiful young girl, the belle of the town, and her winning ways soon captivated the young pioneer, Lincoln. The story is told, that apart from her strong personal qualities, she was an industrious individual skilled in the use of the needle, a womanly accomplishment at this date of vital importance. Her embroidery was the wonder of the community, exquisitely wrought, each stitch painstakingly made. At the quilting bees of this rural settlement, where Lincoln usually escorted her, she was regarded as indispensable. It was at one of these old-fashioned entertainments, where work and play were so often combined, the old, old story was whispered in her ear by the youthful swain, who seldom left her side. At this supreme moment her agile fingers lost their cunning, in her ecstacy of joy she made large, uneven stitches, so much so that many of the women present noted it. For many years the owner of this quilt retained it as a souvenir, taking real pride and pleasure in exhibiting the irregular places. During this brief courtship, however, Miss Rutlege died, and this was Abraham Lincoln's first deep sorrow although he was twenty-six years old at the time.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE.

It was in this condition of mind that the youthful Lincoln first met Mary Todd. Up to this time practically he had avoided the society of women, but even in after life with the world at his feet he never became what is termed "a lady's man." Her sparkling wit and beauty at once charmed him, and for the time being it was an easy matter for him to imagine himself again in love. Following this introduction a stormy courtship ensued, during which a new and disturbing element crossed the pathway of the young lovers in the form of no less a personage than Stephen A. Douglas, who appeared on the tapis as a rival for Miss Todd's heart and hand. From a worldly point of view Douglas was decidedly a more accomplished suitor. His gallantry and fine speeches were of the kind to appeal to the imagination of a young girl, and it was the general opinion in Springfield society that he would easily supplant the ungainly Lincoln in the affections of the proud and aristocratic Miss Todd. For a time Miss Todd received the attentions of both admirers, and to her family and friends it seemed "nip and tuck" between the two wooers. Of the two men Douglas was probably more unremitting in his attentions. He was frequently seen promenading the streets of the village arm in arm with the pretty, sprightly damsel, an act at this date equivalent to an announcement of an engagement of marriage. It was, however, the general consensus of opinion in this small community that Miss Todd was simply flirting outrageously with Douglas with the intention of spurring Lincoln to manifest more deeply his love, as she did not regard him as sufficiently ardent. But there is high authority for the statement that the fair Mary once remarked, possibly during the fickle stage of youth, that "she loved Douglas more, and but for her promise to marry Lincoln would have accepted him."

Human nature is pretty much the same in us all, and as is so frequently the case, this "spur" acted in a contrary fashion. The sensitive, high-strung Lincoln felt deeply the sting of Miss Todd's actions, and in a note expressed in forcible language he wrote to tell her that "his love had waned." But this incident proved to be in the course of time only a lover's quarrel, affairs were patched up to the satisfaction of both parties, Douglas dropped out of the race, and plans for an early marriage were formed. The wedding day selected was New Year's Day, 1841. For some time in advance careful preparations

were made in the Edwards' mansion for the coming event. The house was decorated, supper prepared, and the guests invited. The evening arrived, the bride bedecked in all her finery, tulle veil and silken gown awaited the coming of the groom. An hour passed, the assemblage in the drawing-room began to show a nervous restlessness. Messengers were hurriedly summoned and sent all over the town in search of the missing bridegroom, and each returned with the same report, Lincoln was nowhere to be found. Then the truth dawned upon the little gathering, that one of the principals in this drama had purposely failed to appear. The heart-breaking scene which followed can readily be left to the imagination. The bride-elect in grief and mortification fled to an upper chamber and refused to be comforted. The wedding supper was left untouched, each guest sympathetically and silently withdrew, the lights were blown out, and darkness and gloom settled over everything for the night.

The next morning by daybreak, after persistent search Abraham Lincoln's friends found him, a pitiful object indeed. Three weeks subsequent to this unfortunate episode, in a letter written by him to an intimate friend he says: "I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were distributed to the whole human family, there would not be a cheerful face on earth. Whether I shall ever be better I cannot tell; I awfully forbode I shall not. To remain as I am is impossible. I must die or be better it seems to me." Through these few lines it can be readily seen that Lincoln was suffering from the most horrible remorse, and the cause of his remarkable conduct can be summed up in a few words. Naturally a man of super-sensitive temperament, he was not satisfied in his own mind that he was sufficiently interested in Miss Todd to marry her. Undoubtedly, too, the shadow of his first, early love was still casting a reflection on his manhood. Conscientious duty to certain high ideals is often responsible for making cowards of us all. Meanwhile Time, nature's own restorer, was making life a little more endurable for the estranged couple. The disconsolate Lincoln some months later writes again: "Enough dear Lord. I am not going beyond the truth when I tell you that the short space of time it took me to read your last letter gave me more pleasure than the sum total of all I have enjoyed since that fatal first of January, 1841. Since then it seems to me I should have been entirely happy but for the never absent idea that there is one still unhappy whom I have contributed to make so. That kills my soul. I cannot but reproach myself for ever wishing to be happy while she is otherwise."

Two years later the social world in Springfield "sat up and began to take notice" again. It was rumored that Abraham Lincoln was again paying devoted attention to Mary Todd. And such was the state of the case. It all came about in this manner. A well-known society leader in turning the matter over in her own mind decided that a marriage between a man as promising in the political world as Lincoln, and a woman as accomplished and brilliant as Mary Todd could not fail to add luster to her prestige. She therefore decided to act as peacemaker, and she invited the former lovers to dine with her without either suspecting the surprise in store. Subsequent to this unexpected meeting the now reunited young people kept their affairs hidden from the public by meeting under the roof of this mutual man, who had a keen sense of humor nearly broke down.

The newly wedded couple, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, went to live at once at the Globe Tavern in Springfield, kept by a widow named Beck, where the former writes that they paid "four dollars a week for food and lodging." And the stern reality of married life soon began. To a young woman in whose veins coursed blood that had come down from a long line of distinguished ancestors, who could readily go back on her genealogical chart to years preceding the colonial period, there must have been days in her life when her husband, the son of Thomas Lincoln, the carpenter, and his wife, Nancy Hanks, proved a great trial. History records the deeds of her forefathers. Her grandfather, Levi Todd, ranking as Major General, succeeded Daniel Boone in command of the Kentucky Militia. Previous to this service he had fought gallantly in the campaigns conducted by General George Rodgers Clark against the Indians, and at the battle of Blue Licks commanded a battalion. On her maternal side Mrs. Lincoln was descended from fighting-stock of Revolutionary days, the Porter family of Pennsylvania, many of whom are noted for service to their country in high civil as well as military life. Two of the members of this family deserving more than passing notice are James Madison Porter, the founder of Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, and General Horace Porter of later day fame. Mrs. Lincoln's father and mother were first cousins.

In 1860 when Abraham Lincoln first heard of his election to the presidency his first thoughts were of his wife. He remarked, "there is a little woman on Eighth Street who has some interest in this matter," and he quickly walked home to gladden her heart with the good news. The scene which followed this announcement is one never to be forgotten. Coming down through ages one can almost hear the peals of joyous laughter of a radiantly happy woman, who in true feminine fashion is said to have exclaimed, "I told you so, I knew that some day I should be mistress of the White House."

All through the memorable winter that followed Mrs. Lincoln spent her time preparing to leave her Western home for the National Capital. But it was not all work, much interesting play and excitement was crowded into the busy days. Parties and receptions galore were given in honor of the distinguished couple. At one of the entertainments given them by the citizens of Springfield, Mrs. Lincoln was presented with a splendidly ornamented sewing machine, which she carried along on the triumphant journey to Washington. Doubtless it was frequently called into service by the colored dressmaker, called at this date mantua-maker, Josephine Keckley, who practically lived at the White House during the Lincoln administration and made most of the fine clothes for which Mrs. Lincoln was noted. It is said on this momentous journey of the presidential party, when the President-elect was accompanied by a body-guard of twenty of the most distinguished Springfield citizens, that Mrs. Lincoln invariably carried a fan. One of her sisters asked what possible use she could have for the fan as it was still cold weather. The quick retort was: "to fan her own agitated self, and to keep other members of the party from getting too warm in the cause."

Quite recently, through the generosity of a Washington woman, Mrs. Julian-James, a dress worn by Mrs. Lincoln, as near as can be traced, upon the inaugural ceremonies attendant upon her husband's first administration, has been placed in the American Historical Costume Collection at the United States National Museum. This gown of rich, royal purple velvet is made very bouffante, and every seam is piped with heavy white silk cording. The corsage, which is cut low, is a style of dress very much worn by this Mistress of the White House, who quite prided herself on her plump neck and shoulders. This was a time, however, in the history of fashions, when low-necked gowns were worn by women both by daylight and for evening wear. Accompanying this historic costume is a jacket of the same material, which was doubtless used by the owner to slip on and off as the occasion required. In one of the hands of the manikin made to represent Mrs. Lincoln, without any attempt at a likeness, except the coiffure, which has been accurately copied from an old photograph, is a purple watered silk fan evidently made to match the dress. A tiny purple silk parasol of the same era also accompanies the costume.

In this same building of the United States National Museum, but in a case devoted entirely to Lincoln relics, is a black broadcloth suit worn by the martyred President. There is nothing of especial interest to distinguish these clothes from the general style worn by men of the present day except the sleeves, which are of enormous length, and that the number and position of the pockets are not the same. On the occasion of President Lincoln's first inauguration in 1861, he is graphically described as wearing "brand-new clothes from top to toe," black dress coat, instead of the usual frock, a black satin waistcoat, black trowsers, and a glossy beaver hat evidently just out of the band-box. In his hand he carried a huge ebony cane with a gold head the size of an egg. A friend in speaking of his personal appearance when he began to deliver his inaugural address remarked: "that he looked so uncomfortable in these strange habiliments that he could not help pitying him."

After the passage of fifty years the government of a grateful people, has erected in the National Capital a Lincoln memorial to perpetuate the memory of this great statesman forever. On the pure white marble no greater testimony of the man Lincoln could be chiseled than his own words, "Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower when I thought a flower would grow."

The Chicago Evening Post
2-8-1922

WEARS MRS. LINCOLN'S GOWN

MISS GEORGENE FAULKNER dressed in a gown of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and a quilted satin bonnet Mrs. Lincoln wore on the night the great President was assassinated. Miss Faulkner will wear this costume on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 11, when she tells the story of the slain President at a meeting in the Chicago Historical society building, in honor of the 113th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

COSTUME worn by Mrs. Lincoln

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The sharp contrast in styles two generations apart is shown by these two pictures. The old gown was worn by Mrs. Lincoln in her husband's first term as President and is owned by Mrs. Julian James of Washington. The elaborate 1922 dinner gown is of gray beaded net over gray and peach colored chiffon trimmed with gray ostrich feathers and metal grapes.

N.Y. Herald 2-12-1922 P. & A. International.

COSTUME Worn by Mrs. Lincoln

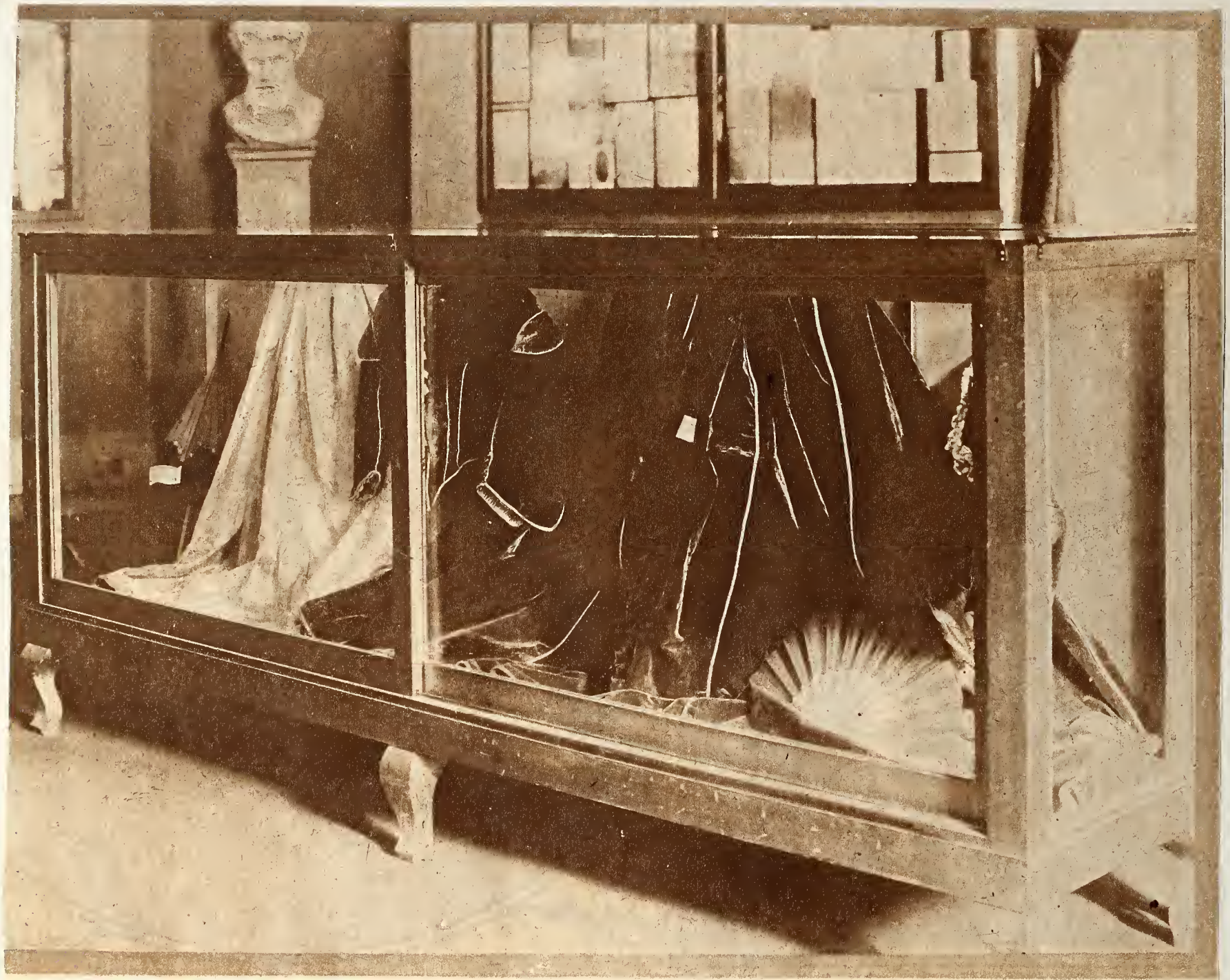
Unique Story Hour for Lincoln's Birthday Celebration.

MISS FAULKNER, DRESSED AS MRS. LINCOLN.

The Chicago Historical Society celebrated Lincoln's birthday by a story hour at the public library. Miss Georgene Falkner was dressed in costume copied from one of Mrs. Lincoln's favorite gowns when she was first lady of the land and the bonnet is said to be one Mrs. Lincoln often wore. The room was a reproduction of the one in which Lincoln died. In this setting Miss Faulkner told the story of Lincoln's life to hundreds of children.

Los Angeles Times 2-11-23

Grace Wood Jess wearing a gown which was part of the wardrobe of Mrs. Lincoln while she was mistress of the White House.



Mrs. Lincoln's wedding dress preserved in the memorial room of the Lincoln Memorial Association.

Unsystematic Himself, Mrs. Lincoln Had False Notions of Economy.

[Gamaliel Bradford, in Harper's Magazine]

As regards the most essential element of domestic happiness, money, Lincoln was unsystematic. In his legal business he could not be kept to exact accounting, had no commercial or speculative instinct whatever. But he was no spender, had few needs and no costly tastes, and above all he abhorred debt, though circumstances sometimes forced him into it.

Mrs. Lincoln no doubt did her best. In the early days she made her own dresses and always she had moments of violent economy. But her tastes in the matter of outlay were far different from her husband's. We have her own written words—and it is such a comfort when we do have them—on this subject.

"When I saw the large steamers at the New York landing, ready for the European voyage, I felt in my heart inclined to sigh that poverty was my portion. I often laugh and tell Mr. Lincoln that I am determined my next husband shall be rich"—which of course was agreeable for him.

But the most pitiable exhibition in regard to Mrs. Lincoln's finances is Mrs. Keckley's story of the debts incurred from real or supposed necessities of dress to keep up the presidential dignity. The maddening pressure of these doubled the wife's anxiety as to the chances of the second election in 1864. It must not be supposed that Mrs. Keckley's record of conversations which took place is verbally exact, but it is surely close to reality in its general tone.

She says to Mrs. Lincoln, "And Mr. Lincoln does not even suspect how much you owe?" And the answer is, "'God, no!' This was a favorite expression of hers. 'And I would not have him suspect. If he knew that his wife was involved to the extent that she is, the knowledge would drive him mad. He does not know a thing about my debts, and I value his happiness, not to speak of my own, too much to allow him to know anything.'" Such are the domestic tragedies of money.

1925

Dress worn by Mrs. Lincoln at Inaugural Ball

9

SHE HAS TREASURE WORTH KEEPING

Mrs. O. A. Shorb, wife of a Southern Pacific railroad conductor, with relic she values above all her other possessions. It is the dress which was worn by Mrs. Lincoln at the inaugural ball when Abraham Lincoln was made president. The dress has been in the Shorb family for three generations. It is made of silk and is embroidered with velvet representing small bouquets of varicolored flowers. [The Associated Press.]

CHICAGO HERALD NEWS-JOURNAL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1930.

Mrs. O. A. Shorb, wife of conductor Shorb, with inaugural gown worn by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

Conductor's Wife is Owner of Historic Gown

Among the treasures of Mrs. O. A. Shorb, wife of Passenger Conductor Shorb, is one which she cherishes above all the others, and which is almost priceless. It is the dress worn by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln at the inaugural ball when the immortal martyr was made president.

The dress has been in the family for three generations, having been purchased by Mrs. Shorb's grandmother at a sale of Mrs. Lincoln's effects, held in the old Palmer House, Chicago. The dress passed to Mrs. Shorb's mother, who in turn bequeathed it to her.

The material is silk and of a quality not seen these days. It is very heavy and stiff and will almost stand alone. The silk is embroidered with velvet, the work being most painstakingly and minutely done, and represents small bouquets of vari-colored flowers. After inspecting the dress, one can easily understand why our grandmothers' desire to own a silk dress was so strong, for, in comparison with our own times, the possession of a silk dress then was equivalent to the ownership of a costly fur coat today.

Mrs. Shorb also possesses a photograph of Mrs. Lincoln, taken in the inaugural gown.

Costume worn by Mrs. Lincoln night of Assassination

Above—Fred Wise and Miss Margaret Lester rehearsing songs of Washington's time, among relics of the period, at the Chicago Historical society. Below—Mrs. Jane Alden Hawes, who knew Lincoln, telling Miss Ethel Hooper some of her memories of the times. Miss Hooper is arrayed in the bonnet, dress and cloak worn by Mrs. Lincoln at Ford's theater the night that Lincoln was assassinated. The fan of ostrich feathers is one similar to that which Mrs. Hawes used to brush the flies away from Lincoln when he was a dinner guest at her parents' home. [By a staff photographer.]

THE periods of Washington's and Lincoln's lives will live again in music at the third of the "Hearing America First" concerts for school children to be held Saturday morning, Feb. 15, in Orchestra hall.

Amid the settings and in the costumes of the times Margaret Lester, Helen Protheroe, Leslie Arnold and Fred Wise, who will give the program, rehearsed yesterday at the Chicago Historical society. And while they were there Mrs. Jane Alden Hawes, 437 North Kenilworth avenue, Oak Park, who knew Lincoln, came to hear them and offer criticism and suggestions from her memories of the music and costumes of Lincoln's times.

Mrs. Hawes remembers well the many times that Lincoln visited her parents when she was a very small girl in Havana, Ill. At the sight of an ostrich feather fan in the museum's Lincoln collection her memory became vivid, and she recounted her experience of fanning the flies from Lincoln for the duration of a meal at her father's home with just such a fan.

"It makes me very angry to read in the histories that Lincoln was a homely, uncouth man," she said. "I remember him as he sat at my father's table just as well as if it were yesterday, and of all the people present he was the handsomest."

CHICAGO [illegible] NEWS-JOURNAL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1930.

Milwaukee Sentinel - 2-12-1930

A COSTUME MRS. LINCOLN WORE—Miss Ethel Hooper wears a costume that Mrs. Abraham Lincoln wore, sits in a rocking chair that belonged to the Lincoln family and holds a law book of the Great Emancipator—relics brought forth by the Chicago Historical Society.

Piece of Dress Lincoln's Wife Wore Is Prized

Shows Stain Caused Night President Was Shot

CANASTOTA.—Mrs. H. J. Decker has at her home in Stroud street a piece of the dress worn by Abraham Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, on the night President Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's theater in Washington. The fragment of cloth, which Mrs. Decker has preserved under glass, still shows a blood stain where a drop of the martyred president's blood fell on Mrs. Lincoln's garment.

Mrs. Decker, who is a former resident of Washington, received the historical token from her oldest brother, the late Major George M. Lockwood Major Lockwood was an officer in the Union army and was residing in Washington at the time of Lincoln's assassination.

Following the tragedy the blood stained dress which Mrs. Lincoln wore on that evening was preserved by her relatives. Later the dress was cut into fragments which were distributed among the close friends of the Lincoln family and it is one of these Mrs. Decker now possesses.

SYRACUSE N Y STANDARD
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1931

STORE CLERK 70 YEARS HONORED IN NEW YORK

Hoover and Coolidge Among Those Sending Congratulations

New York, April 30—(AP)—President Hoover, Calvin Coolidge, and others today sent congratulations to William C. Creamer, who has been in the employ of a New York department store for seventy years, and who used to wait on Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Creamer started to work on April 30, 1861, in the Arnold Constable & Co. store, at the age of ten, as a cash boy. His salary was $1 a week, paid in gold.

The president of the store gave a luncheon in his honor today.

While he was a young salesman Mr. Creamer used to sell silks to Mrs. Lincoln. He remembers her as a "small, plainly dressed woman, somewhat finicky and far from extravagant."

He sold silks to Mrs. U. S. Grant, too, for eighteen years, and he recalls often seeing Theodore Roosevelt as a child, brought to the store by his mother when she did her shopping.

He also remembers Mark Twain as "a silent, glum person who you'd never have guessed was a humorist."

After the luncheon Mr. Creamer went back to his counter.

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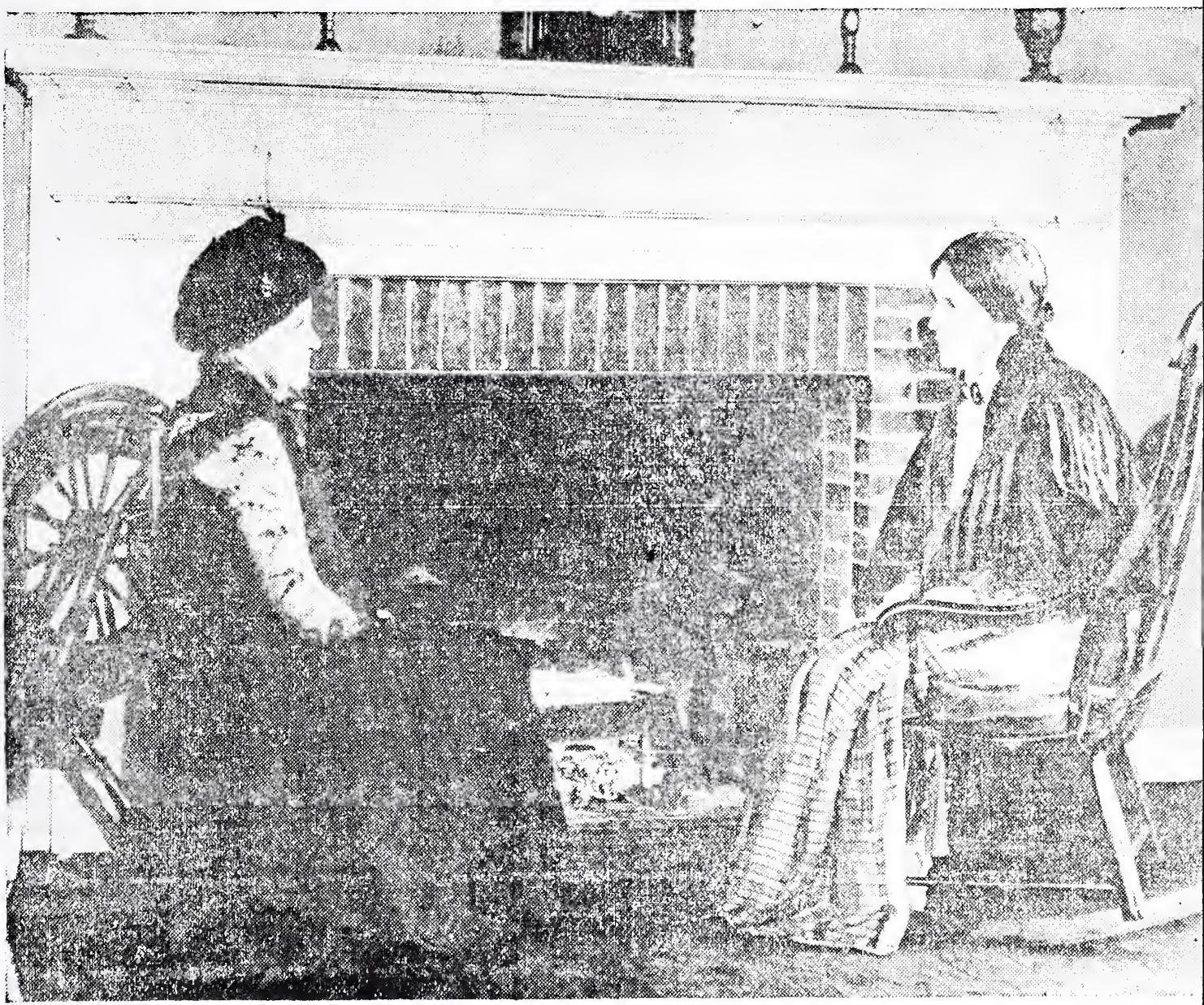
REVIVE OLD FASHIONS FOR STATE STREET FETE

Fashions of other days are revived for State street's 100th anniversary celebration, which opens tomorrow. From left to right are Peggy Marshall in Mrs. Abraham Lincoln's 1843 wedding gown, Marion Nolan in Mrs. Isaac Arnold's 1853 gown, and Josephine Buckley in Mrs. Pamelia Calhoun's gown of 1843.

(TRIBUNE Photo.) 10-8-33

QUAINT COSTUMES ARE WORN AT LINCOLN PIONEER PARTY



Quaint costumes of other days were brought to light at the Abraham Lincoln pioneer party Saturday at the Meridian Hills Country Club. Mrs. E. H. Kemper McComb (left), wore a Chantilly lace shawl over her black gown. Her old-fashioned bonnet was trimmed with jet.

Mrs. Hugh J. Baker (right), wore a gown of purple plaid silk, made with the shirred velvet shoulder cape which was a fashion highlight in the sixties.

The New York Times Oct. 18, 1936

At the Right—Miss Rose O'Neil Winslow, daughter of Mrs. Garrow T. Geer, wearing a costume copied in part from Mary Todd Lincoln's gown. It was designed by Bonwit Teller, with jewels from Tiffany.

9. . . . 1 Fan.

KIRKOR A. GUMUCHIAN

JOHN W. EDWARDS

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ESTABLISHED PARIS, FRANCE, 1925

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August 21st.
1940

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne
Indiana

Dear Sirs:

We thank you for your postcard enquiring after material dealing directly or indirectly with Abraham Lincoln.

We take this opportunity of drawing to your attention a Lincoln Memorial Fan presented to the Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III.

Besides the Historical interest and scenes depicted on the fan , the fan has a commercial interest in the fact that it is one of the earliest objects manufactured out of aluminium.

We enclose a detailed description of the fan and reproductions which give a good idea of its beauty. It wa exposed at the Paris Universal Exhbition of 1867.

We purchased this item from a French book dealer who printed the enclosed circular. Because of the war we were able to buy it at a very reasonable price, far below what Mr. Denis, the dealer, was asking . You will from the circular that he had priced the fan at 400 English pounds, it being a unique item.

We are in a position to offer this fan at a special price of 400 dollars - not pounds.

Yours very truly

KAG/M

I'm with relatives of Elsy Keeler
saying that it was carried
by their Cherokee on the night
of their trail of tears down
Cody's - Sp. Wd. stained — with blood

When Mrs. Lincoln Tried to Sell $80 Handkerchief

COLUMBUS, Feb. 12 (Wide World)—It cost a lot of money to dress Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in the style demanded by Washington society and her own tastes, down to a white point lace handkerchief at $80 and a white point lace parasol cover at $250.

These were the values set by Mrs. Lincoln herself in 1867 when she forwarded to W. H. Brady of New York various articles of dress she wished to sell because of her harassing economic situation, the Columbus Dispatch relates.

As detailed in the Columbus Morning Journal, on Oct. 5, 1867, Mrs. Lincoln was desperately in need of money. Instead of the $100,000 she had expected as her husband's salary for four years of his second term, she received $25,000 for one year of his service, and of this $3000 was needed to care for certain obligations.

"Her present income, she states, is but $1700 a year, of which $300 comes from the rent of her old house in Springfield, Ill." the 1867 paper said. "It appears from this that Mr. Lincoln not only saved no money while he occupied the White House but really lived beyond his income."

Mrs. Lincoln's inventory included these articles:

A black center camel's hair shawl, long, $1500; a white center camel's hair shawl, long, $1200; another shawl at $400, another at $350 and one at $100; three superfine point lace shawls at $1500, $500 and $300; another white point lace shawl at $2000 and four others at $75, $40, $50 and $50.

Other items were a Russian sable cape at $1500 and a Russian sable boa at $1200; a white point lace dress, unmade, at $4000; a white point lace flounce at $150, and the $250 parasol cover and $80 handkerchief.

Mrs. Lincoln at first wished her name withheld as owner of the articles, but later changed her mind.

"Through the ingratitude of the Republicans toward the memory of the lamented President, the family of their chief has been left to suffer want and destitution," one letter to Brady read. "Therefore, it is natural to suppose that when it became imperatively necessary for Mrs. Lincoln, the honored and beloved wife of the late President, to dispose of apparel and jewelry to enable her to meet the common daily necessaries of life, it was certainly in better taste that (the name) Mrs. Clarke, rather than Mrs. Lincoln, should appear in the proceedings.

"Although, in her overwhelming sorrow she was, by an ungrateful Republican party, deprived of her rightful maintenance, they should appreciate her delicacy in desiring her true name and their own ignominy from being known to the world."

The newspaper also published a story on Oct. 19, 1867, describing as "almost incredible" Mrs. Lincoln's dealings with a Chicago pawn broker with whom she pledged for $30 the $225 dress she wore to Ford's Theatre the night the President was assassinated, and another dress which she wore at his first inauguration, as well as other clothes.

Paper Reveals Mrs. Lincoln's Expensive Taste in Clothes

'Harassing Economic Conditions' Led to Efforts to Sell Luxurious Wardrobe

By Wide World News.

COLUMBUS, Feb. 12.—It cost a lot of money to dress Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in the style demanded by Washington society and her own tastes, down to a white point lace handkerchief at $80 and a white point lace parasol cover at $250.

These were the values set by Mrs. Lincoln herself in 1867 when she forwarded to W. H. Brady of New York various articles of dress she wished to sell because of her harassing economic situation, the Columbus dispatch relates.

As detailed in the Columbus Morning Journal, on October 5, 1867, Mrs. Lincoln was desperately in need of money. Instead of the $100,000 she had expected as her husband's salary for four years of his second term, she received $25,000 for one year of his service; and of this $3,000 was needed to care for certain obligations.

Lived Beyond Income.

"Her present income, she states, is but $1,700 a year, of which $300 comes from the rent of her old house in Springfield, Ill.," the 1867 paper said. "It appears from this that Mr. Lincoln not only saved no money while he occupied the White House, but really lived beyond his income."

Mrs. Lincoln's inventory included these articles:

A black center camel's hair shawl, long, $1,500; a white center camel's hair shawl, long, $1,200; another shawl at $400, another at $350, and one at $100; three superfine point lace shawls at $1,500, $500 and $300; another white point lace shawl at $2,000, and four others at $75, $40, $50 and $50.

Other items were a Russian sable cape at $1,500, and a Russian sable boa at $1,200; a white point lace dress, unmade, at $4,000; a white point lace flounce at $150 and the parasol cover and $80 handkerchief.

Finally Revealed Name.

Mrs. Lincoln at first wished her name withheld as owner of the articles, but later changed her mind.

"Through the ingratitude of the Republicans toward the memory of the lamented President, the family of their chief has been left to suffer want and destitution," one letter to Mr. Brady read. "Therefore, it is natural to suppose that when it became imperatively necessary for Mrs. Lincoln, the honored and beloved wife of the late President, to dispose of apparel and jewelry to enable her to meet the common daily necessaries of life, it was certainly in better taste that (the name) Mrs. Clarke, rather than Mrs. Lincoln, should appear in the proceedings.

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Mrs. Lincoln's Clothes—and Creditors

Emancipator's Wife Wore Extravagant Finery

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These were the values set by Mrs. Lincoln herself in 1867 when she forwarded to W. H. Brady of New York articles she wished to sell because of her harassed economic situation, the Columbus dispatch relates.

As detailed in the Columbus Morning Journal, Oct. 5, 1867, Mrs. Lincoln needed money desperately. Instead of the $100,000 she had expected as her husband's salary for four years of his second term, she received $25,000 for one year of his service. Of this $3,000 was needed to care for certain obligations.

$30 at Pawnbroker's

Mrs. Lincoln's inventory included:

A black center camel's hair shawl, long, $1,500; a white center camel's hair shawl, long, $1,200; other shawls at $400, $350, and $100; three superfine point lace shawls at $1,500, $500 and $300; another white point lace shawl at $2,000; and four others at $75, $40, $50 and $50.

Other items were a Russian sable cape at $1,500, and a Russian sable boa at $1,200; a white point lace dress, unmade, at $4,000; a white point lace flounce at $150, and the parasol cover and $80 handkerchief.

The newspaper also published a story on Oct. 19, 1867, describing as "almost incredible" Mrs. Lincoln's dealings with a Chicago pawn broker with whom she pledged for $30 the $225 dress she wore to Ford's theatre the night the President was assassinated, and another dress which she wore at his first inauguration, as well as other clothes.

Copyright, Bachrach

MARY TODD LINCOLN in some of the White House finery she was later forced to sell.

Mere $8,075 Kept Mrs. Lincoln in Shawls, News Files Reveal

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Other items were a Russian sable cape at $1,500, and a Russian sable boa at $1,200; a white point lace dress, unmade, at $4,000; a white point lace flounce at $150, and the parasol cover and $80 handkerchief.

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Mrs. Lincoln Spent Much on Dress, Old Paper Says

COLUMBUS, Feb. 12.—(Wide World)—It cost a lot of money to dress Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in the style demanded by Washington society and her own tastes, down to a white point lace handkerchief at $890 and a white point lace parasol cover at $250.

These were the values set by Mrs. Lincoln herself in 1867 when she forwarded to W. H. Brady, New York, various articles of dress she wished to sell because of her harassing economic situation, the Columbus Dispatch relates.

As detailed in the Columbus Morning Journal, on Oct. 5, 1867, Mrs. Lincoln was desperately in need of money. Instead of the $100,000 she had expected as her husband's salary for four years of his second term, she received $25,000 for one year of his service; and of this, $3,000 was needed to care for certain obligations.

"Lincoln Saved No Money."

"Her present income, she states, is but $1,700 a year, of which $300 comes from the rent of her old house in Springfield, Ill.," the 1867 paper said. "It appears from this that Mr. Lincoln, not only saved no money while he occupied the White House, but really lived beyond his income."

Mrs. Lincoln's inventory included these articles:

A black center camel's hair shawl, long, $1,500; a white center camel's hair shawl, long, $1,200; another shawl at $400; another at $350, and one at $100; three superfine point lace shawls at $1,500, $500 and $300; another white point lace shawl at $2,000; and four others at $75, $40, $50 and $50.

Other items were a Russian sable cape at $1,500, and a Russian sable boa at $1,200; a white point lace dress, unmade, at $4,000; a white point lace flounce at $150, and the parasol cover, and $80 handkerchief.

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Dealt With Pawnbroker.

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The newspaper also published a story on Oct. 19, 1867, describing as "almost incredible" Mrs. Lincoln's dealings with a Chicago pawnbroker with whom she pledged for $30 a $225 dress dress she wore to Ford's Theater the night the president was assassinated, and another dress which she wore at his first inauguration, as well as other clothes.

JAP AMBASSADOR KILLED

PARIS (From German Broadcasts), Feb. 12.—(AP)—Sotomatsu Kato, Japanese ambassador to France and former minister to Canada, was injured fatally last night when he fell from a window of the embassy building on Avenue Hoche.

all-out enemy assault aimed at (Continued on Page Seven)

Mrs. Lincoln Tried to Sell Clothes at Huge Prices

COLUMBUS, Feb. 12 (Wide World)—It cost a lot of money to dress Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in the style demanded by Washington society and her own tastes, down to a white point lace handkerchief at $80 and a white point lace parasol cover at $250.

These were the values set by Mrs. Lincoln herself in 1867 when she forwarded to W. H. Brady, of New York, various articles of dress she wished to sell because of her harassing economic situation, the Columbus Dispatch relates.

NEEDED MONEY

As detailed in the Columbus Morning Journal, on Oct. 5, 1867, Mrs. Lincoln was desperately in need of money. Instead of the $100,000 she had expected as her husband's salary for four years of his second term, she received $25,000 for one year of his service; and of this $3000 was needed to care for certain obligations.

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Mrs. Lincoln's inventory included these articles:

A $1500 SHAWL

A black center camel's hair shawl, long, $1500; a white center camel's hair shawl, long, $1200; another shawl at $400, another at $350, and one at $100; three superfine point lace shawls at $1500, $500 and $300; another

Mrs. Lincoln's Hanky Pretty But Costly

Widow Sold Garments to Meet Expenses

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 12.-(Wide World)-It cost a lot of money to dress Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in the style demanded by Washington society and her own tastes, down to a white point lace handkerchief at $80 annd a white point lace parasol cover at $250.

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1/12/72

OREGON JOURNAL, THURSDA

Sale of Fine Gowns Bares Poverty of Lincoln's Widow

Columbus, Feb. 12. — (Wide World)—It cost a lot of money to dress Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in the style demanded by Washington society and her own tastes, down to a white point lace handkerchief at $80 and a white point lace parasol cover at $250.

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Other items were a Russian sable cape at $1,500 and a Russian sable boa at $1,200; a white point lace dress, unmade, at $4,000; a white point lace flounce at $150 and the parasol cover and $80 handkerchief.

Asked to Withhold Name.

Mrs. Lincoln at first wished to withhold her name as owner of the articles, but later changed her mind.

"Through the ingratitude of the Republicans toward the memory of the lamented President the family of their chief has been left to suffer want and destitution," one letter to Brady read. "Therefore it is natural to suppose that when it became imperatively necessary for Mrs. Lincoln, the honored and beloved wife of the late President, to dispose of apparel and jewelry to enable her to meet the common daily necessaries of life, it was certainly in better taste that (the name) Mrs. Clarke, rather than Mrs. Lincoln, should appear in the proceedings.

Deprived of Maintenance.

"Although in her overwhelming sorrow she was, by an ungrateful Republican party, deprived of her rightful maintenance, they should appreciate her delicacy in desiring her true name and their own ignominy from being known to the world."

The newspaper also published a story on Oct. 19, 1867, describing as "almost incredible" Mrs. Lincoln's dealings with a Chicago pawnbroker with whom she pledged for $30 the $225 dress she wore to Ford's Theater the night the President was assassinated, and another dress that she wore at his first inauguration, as well as other clothes.

Lloyd Rodman Returns To Manage Farms

Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 12.—(Special to The Daily News.)—Lloyd G. Rodman, former McLean County farm adviser, who resigned in early December to move to Texas, has returned to Bloomington. He expects to locate here to manage farms.

Texas has a milder winter climate but for soil, production and satisfaction in life, McLean County is God's country, Rodman says.

Rodman sold his farm in Funks Grove Township in December but plans to purchase another near Bloomington. He expects to make his home on the farm and maintain a farm management office here. The family has been living in Champaign but will move to the farm home near Bloomington within 60 days.

Lincoln's Wife Had Penchant For Costly Garb

Columbus, Feb. 12—(Wide World)—It cost a lot of money to dress Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in the style demanded by Washington society and her own tastes, down to a white point lace handkerchief at $890 and a white point lace parasol cover at $250.

These were the values set by Mrs. Lincoln herself in 1867 when she forwarded to W. H. Brady, of New York, various articles of dress she wished to sell because of her harassing economic situation, the Columbus Dispatch relates.

As detailed in the Columbus Morning Journal, on Oct. 5, 1867, Mrs. Lincoln was desperately in need of money. Instead of the $100,000 she had expected as her husband's salary for four years of his second term, she received $25,000 for one year of his service; and of this $3,000 was needed to care for certain obligations.

"Her present income, she states, is but $1,700 a year, of which $300 comes from the rent of her old house in Springfield, Ill.," the 1867 paper said. "It appears from this that Mr. Lincoln not only saved no money while he occupied the White House but really lived beyond his income."

Mrs. Lincoln's inventory included these articles:

A black center camel's hair shawl, long, $1,500; a white center camel's hair shawl, long, $1,200; another shawl at $400, another at $350 and one at $100; three superfine point lace shawls at $1,500, $500 and $300; another white point lace shawl at $2,000; and four others at $75, $40, $50 and $50.

Other items were a Russian sable cape at $1,500, and a Russian sable boa at $1,200; a white point lace dress, unmade, at $4,000; a white point lace flounce at $150, and the parasol cover and $80 handkerchief.

Mrs. Lincoln at first wished her name withheld as owner of the articles, but later changed her mind.

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THE LOUISVILLE TIMES
February 12, 1942

Mrs. Lincoln Had Fortune In Clothes

$1,500 Shawl, $4,000 Dress Among Items She Tried to Sell After President Died

COLUMBUS.

It cost a lot of money to dress Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in the style demanded by Washington society and her own tastes, down to the white point lace handkerchief at $80 and a white point lace parasol cover at $250.

These were the values set by Mrs. Lincoln herself in 1867 when she forwarded to W. H. Brady, New York, various articles of dress she wished to sell because of her harassing economic situation, the Columbus Dispatch relates.

As detailed in the Columbus Morning Journal, on October 5, 1867, Mrs. Lincoln was desperately in need of money. Instead of the $100,000 she had expected as her husband's salary for four years of his second term, she received $25,000 for one year of his service; and of this $3,000 was needed to care for certain obligations.

"LIVED BEYOND HIS INCOME."

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SUFFERED DESTITUTION.

Mrs. Lincoln at first wished her name withheld as owner of the articles, but later changed her mind.

"Through the ingratitude of the Republicans toward the memory of the lamented President, the family of their chief has been left to suffer want and destitution," one letter to Brady read. "Therefore, it is natural to suppose that when it became imperatively necessary for Mrs. Lincoln, the honored and beloved wife of the late President, to dispose of apparel and jewelry to enable her to meet the common daily necessaries of life, it was certainly in better taste that (the name) Mrs. Clarke, rather than Mrs. Lincoln, should appear in the proceedings.

PAWNED DRESS FOR $30.

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Old Styles at the White House

Mrs. Lincoln's Clothes

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MRS. LINCOLN AT FIRST wished her name withheld as owner of the articles, but later changed her mind.

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Mere $8,075 Kept Mrs. Lincoln in Shawls, News Files Reveal

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It Cost Lincoln Small Fortune to Dress Wife

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Dress Pawned

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NEWARK EVENING NEWS
THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 12, 1942

Lincoln's Kin Tastes Costly

Old Story Reveals Prices Put by President's Widow on Finery

Wide World News.

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High Cost of Mrs. Lincoln's Clothes Told in Old Account

Handkerchief Valued at $80, Parasol $250, Among Articles Sold in Economic Distress

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Dr. Louis Warren,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

In trying to find someone interested in the purchase of some Lincolniana we wrote to Pearl Reeder, Editor of Hobbies and she suggested your name. We have a subscriber --- an old gentleman eighty-one years old --- who has these pieces described in the enclosed sheet. His name appears at the bottom: Mr. William Runyan, Owosso, Michigan. His R.F.D. number is 3.

We do not know whether he could furnish further proof of authenticity or not; apparently the story has come down by word of mouth. If you are interested or if you know anyone else who might be, will you kindly communicate with Mr. Runyan or with us so we can refer it to him?

Cordially,

MICHIGAN FARMER

Florence Stelle
(Mrs.) Florence Stelle,
Service Editor.

FS/s
Enc.

7

C O P Y

OWOSSO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Maud Cushman Thompson, Librarian
Owosso, Michigan

Taken from The Owosso Argus-Press of February 13, 1931:

COPPER UTENSILS THAT ONCE BELONGED TO LINCOLN SHOWN

Were given to Great Aunt of Owosso Man, by President's Widow

A set of four copper utensils from original collection of Abraham Lincoln, now owned by Charles L. Beehler, is on display in the window of the L.P.Ball Jewelry Store on West Main Street. The set was given to Mrs. L. F. Shoemaker, great aunt of Mr. Beehler by the widow of the great President as a token of appreciation of her services.

Mrs. Shoemaker made her way to America from Switzerland about the time of the Civil War as the maid of a member of the French legation and because of her remarkable abilities in foreign languages, she was engaged as the private interpreter for Mrs. Lincoln when the latter was on a six weeks' sojourn in France. She had mastered five languages.

There was also in the collection given Mrs. Shoemaker, a hand-carved, ivory-handled coathing parasol of black silk, lined with white silk, which Mrs. Lincoln carried at her husband's inauguration. It, however, was later given to Dr. W. B. Ward by Mrs. Shoemaker and is now, or was before the recent fire, in the museum at the State Capitol, having been donated by Dr. Ward.

The copper collection consists of a small dipper, a skillet, a two-quart dipper and the upper section of a two-piece cooker, all of which are hammered from solid copper and lined with tin. The large dipper weighs approximately ten pounds.

There are also a few interesting old newspapers relative to the life and time of Lincoln in the window with the copperware.

Mr. William Bunyan, R.F.D. 3, Owosso, Michigan, owner, says:

"I also have a picture of Mrs. Shoemaker that goes with the dishes."

Mrs. Lincoln's Lace Shawl at the Art Institute

By Frances Stover

ON APR. 14, 1865, Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, a plump brunet with a wreath of tiny roses in her hair and a handsome black lace shawl over her light colored satin dress, came down the White House steps on the arm of her husband. They got into a carriage and drove to Ford's theater.

Mrs. Lincoln and the president, too, took care that the delicate lace of her shawl did not catch on the carriage door or on the chairs in the opera box. Mrs. Lincoln from time to time pulled her shawl this way and that, arranging it a little coquettishly, as a Kentucky lady would.

The shot; the leap over the ledge to the opera box by the assassin, a distracted wife kneeling beside her husband, the black lace clinging to the chair behind her, forgotten, uncared for.

Shawls of Lace

This is the shawl which is exhibited today and every day in a case at the Milwaukee Art institute while a member of the police force sits close by, guarding the Lincoln relic and the hundreds of other pieces of invaluable Americana on display in "Two Hundred Years of American Primitive Art."

The Lincoln shawl and other laces on exhibition belong to Mrs. William D. Lindsay, 4136 N. Lake dr. Mrs. Lindsay received the shawl as a gift from her aunts, the Misses Blanxius of La Jolla, Calif., formerly of Oak Park, Ill., and Milwaukee. The Misses Blanxius have made large gifts to the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Lincoln shawl and another, worn by the wife of the captain of the Robert E. Lee on its first trip on the Mississippi; also still another, once belonging to a sister of Edward Everett, are in an exhibition of art and art objects which every Milwaukeean should see before it closes on Mar. 25. There is always a hostess in attendance. The Art institute is open from 9 to 5 on week days, from 2 to 5 on Sundays.

Household History

Some of the paintings may bring a smile because of their artless struggle to attain realism. This was the way people looked back yonder, one thinks, these the funny shoes the children wore. Why, they were dressed like their parents!

There is not a laugh in a portrait. People were either serious back yonder or else the artists were not quick enough to catch humor with their brushes.

Given an invitation to visit the show, nobody should attempt to reply that "he knows nothing about art."

These paintings, speaking exactly, are not art at all, academically considered. In the next place, we all know our furniture, our rugs, our quilts, our small decorative objects and our toys. There are fabulous pieces of furniture, a chest on chest, a Pennsylvania Dutch corner cuphoard, a slant top desk, American Chippendale chairs, an old pine mantel from the Dopp home in Waukesha, and other pieces all of which are accompanied by clearly written and correct labels that make the exhibition a joy to visit.

Gallery Tours

The entire exhibition represented a year's planning by the Collectors' Corner, whose members are responsible for assembling the show and for writing the legends.

Those who have lent furniture include Miss Catherine M. Hormuth, Mrs. Charles Zadok, Mrs. Tessie Lou Sargent, Mrs. J. P. Pulliam, Mrs. Vera K. Lee, Mrs. Charles Coburn, Mrs. Millard Tufts, Mrs. C. B. Wright, Mrs. C. O. Wanvig, Mrs. Demerit Hoyt, Mrs. Philip Crystal, Mrs. J. D. Liginger, Mrs. Carl M. Karmgard, Mrs. Hugo Fass, Miss Alice H. Potter, Miss Freda Blumberg, Miss R. R. Roehm and Victor Riedel and Max Levinger.

Lent by Mrs. Sargent is a quilt which was made in 1845 by a member of the Juneau family. The octagonal white center of each star has the name of a Milwaukee pioneer family embroidered in fine stitches. Also lent by Mrs. Sargent are blocks each containing a "remembrance autograph."

Gallery tours of the exhibition are given on request. The College Women's club is scheduled for Wednesday's tour. On Mar. 9, the women's auxiliary of the State Historical society will be at the institute.

Milwaukee Journal

MAR 4 - 1951

Lexington Leader
February 12, 1960

AT LINCOLN INAUGURATION—This gray brocade dress was worn to the first inauguration of Abraham Lincoln by his wife's half sister, Margaret Todd Kellogg. Now in the Cincinnati Art Museum, it was on loan recently to Marie Louise Kellogg McCown. The original owner of the dress helped piece the quilt. The couch came from the home of her stepson, the grandfather of Mrs. McCown who with her husband, Thomas C. McCown, lives on Route 1, Versailles. (Leader photo).

99-Year-Old Dress That 'Saw Lincoln' Has History Dating To Inauguration

By BETTYE LEE MASTIN

A "dress that saw Lincoln" visited the Blue Grass recently.

The 99-year-old dress was on loan to Marie Louise Kellogg McCown, Route 1, Versailles, from its present-day home at the Cincinnati Art Museum.

The gray brocade was worn to Lincoln's first inauguration March 4, 1861, by the half sister of Mary Todd Lincoln, Mrs. Charles Henry Kellogg Sr.

Mrs. McCown's grandmother, the late Mrs. Charles Henry Kellogg Jr., and her aunt, Miss Elizabeth Kellogg, were instrumental in its presentation to the museum.

Mary Todd Lincoln was one of seven sons and daughters as a result of the first marriage of her father, Robert Todd. Margaret Todd Kellogg was one of nine children of Todd's second marriage.

Mrs. Kellogg was 10 years and one day younger than Lincoln's wife. She became the second wife of Charles Henry Kellogg on October 28, 1847, five years after Lincoln's marriage to her half sister.

Union Sympathizer

Kellogg was a Cincinnati merchant and a Union sympathizer. It is said that he often had a difficult time during the War because of the Southern sympathies of the majority of his wife's relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg spent the first few days of Lincoln's administration at the White House in Washington. The full-skirted, small-waisted gown probably was new for the inauguration and for a European trip immediately in the offing.

A portrait of its owner shows her to be small-boned like Mrs. Lincoln but without the latter's plump appearance. Her face was narrower.

Margaret Todd Kellogg's dress reveals other things. She was not as high-bosomed as she wished to be: The tiny bodice with its whalebone stays is lightly padded. The fabric, which is in good condition except in one place, has a leaf design superimposed over four crossed logs. The leaves alternate in color with one row green, a second dubonnet, a third brown.

China Silk

Three-quarter length sleeves are trimmed with shirred bands of the same fabric. They are lined with China silk and cut to expose an under blouse.

The waist is emphasized with lines of chain-stitching. The skirt is lined with glazed brown cotton, or chintz, and has a row of hair braid sewn between the brocade and the lining. The hair braid probably was meant to prevent wear on the hem of the floor-length gown.

The dress reveals that its wearer's waist was 21 inches or smaller. Measurement of its over-all length makes it appear that the owner was about five feet tall. (Mrs. Lincoln looks short in all her photographs and is described as "below medium height".)

One secret the dress does not tell: Why the excessive wear on the upper part of just one side of the bodice? Some viewers suggest that repeated holding of a baby against one shoulder would produce such wear, but that is unlikely in a dress treasured even after its usefulness was over.

Mrs. McCown is one of the owners of a Lincoln letter and pass published for the first time in 1958. The Union president wrote the letter to his wife's half-sister on November 14, 1861. It expressed his desire to comply with her request for a pass through Union lines "so far as I consistently can." He added, "I can not safely authorize any one to pass our lines without the approbation of the military com-

mander in the vicinity and some representative man of the citizens."

Lincoln's wife derided another request made by her half sister's family. Apparently Lincoln was asked to appoint Charles Henry Kellogg as consul to a foreign country. Mrs. Lincoln, in a letter to Elizabeth Todd Edwards (her sister and Mrs. Kellogg's half sister) called the idea preposterous.

No record of the appointment has been found, but the Kelloggs did spend several of the war years abroad. In Rome, they visited Charles Henry Kellogg's brother, the artist Minor Kellogg who painted a portrait of his sister-in-law.

She did not pose in the gray brocade but apparently chose to wear the "Lincoln" gown in another picture, a photograph in which can be seen the same three-quarter length sleeves edged with shirred bands of self material.

Mrs. Kellogg was married in Lexington and was buried in the Lexington Cemetery after her death on March 13, 1904.

Illinois Lincoln Relic Shown

By Florence Weed

WASHINGTON — A black Chantilly lace shawl, fragile as an insect web, is being displayed on the arm of the mannequin of Mary Todd Lincoln in the First Ladies' hall at the Smithsonian Institution, thru the generosity of Mrs. Harold V. Welch of Springfield, Ill.

Mrs. Weed

New, too, to the First Ladies' hall, which offers an outstanding display of costume design, is the white inaugural ball gown of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, added to the display in late November.

This historic collection of gowns and accessories has been assembled since 1912 when Mrs. William Howard Taft presented her inaugural gown to the museum. Since that time, each wife of the President has given a dress.

Earlier costumes have been collected thru the years as relatives and friends have given gowns and accessories to the museum as the most fitting place where they could be preserved and enjoyed by the public.

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Mrs. Welch's gift of the Lincoln shawl was accompanied by a dress worn by Mrs. Lincoln during her White House days. The egg-shell white taffeta, ornamented with a woven black stripe and a small purple flower, is contrasted with trimming of black lace. After being carefully preserved by Mrs. Welch's family for 100 years, it was first given to the museum of the Daughters of the American Revolution in April, 1961. Since that museum displays only relics of the Revolutionary period, Mrs. Lincoln's gown was presented to the Smithsonian, "on permanent loan."

In contrast to the dark velvet formal gown in which the figure of Mrs. Lincoln long has been seen in the First Ladies' hall, the Illinois dress is an afternoon gown of light colored material made with a high neck. It was given by Mrs. Lincoln to her favorite cousin, Elizabeth Todd Grimsley of Springfield who lived in the White House with the Lincoln family for six months. The shawl, which Mrs. Grimsley also owned, was given to Mrs. Lincoln by the French ambassador who served in Washington during the Lincoln administration.

After Mrs. Welch inherited the dress and shawl, she decided to place them in a museum to assure their future safety.

• • •

Perhaps in no place except in the First Ladies' hall can the visitor see as well displayed the changes in American period costume design. Here are shown the actual gowns worn by all the White House ladies from Martha Washington to Jacqueline Kennedy. Jewelry worn with the gowns actually was worn by the wives of the Presidents or was chosen so as to be correct for the period. Two mannequins wear college sorority pins — Lucy Webb Hayes, a Kappa Kappa Gamma key and Grace Goodhue Coolidge, the arrow of Pi Beta Phi.

• • •

The same face is used for each of the First Ladies, but the figures are of varying proportions and heights. The face, that of Cordelia, the daughter of Shakespeare's King Lear was imagined back in 1833 by the Louisiana sculptor Pierre F. Connelly. Resemblance to the real First Ladies has been achieved by using coiffeurs copied from pictures or portraits.

To add further interest the collection of gowns has been placed in eight period settings.

so that viewers may see the dresses in the type of surroundings in which they were worn. Architectural details from the White House and former furnishings from this mansion or from their homes have been used in the settings.

The Mary Todd Lincoln figure stands in a Victorian parlor furnished with a floral carpet and mid-19th century furniture of laminated rosewood. The wallpaper is copied from a scrap of White House paper found beneath several layers of plaster during the last renovation of the building. The mantel above the fireplace came from the White House and was used during the administration of President Franklin Pierce.

Especially interesting is the clover leaf sofa on which four people could sit facing in four directions. Room accessories include wax flower bouquets, French bisque figurines and procelaine vases, and English Staffordshire trinket boxes [cr. 1850.]

• • •

The mannequin of Martha Washington is the only seated figure in the group. The setting, which includes the Presidential years from 1789 to 1817, contains the actual furnishings used by the Washingtons at Mount Vernon or at their Presidential residences in New York and Washington.

From three to six figures have been placed in each setting to add variety and interest. A surprisingly large number of these represent relatives or family friends who served as White House hostesses. These women include Martha Jefferson, daughter of Thomas Jefferson; Maria Monroe Gouverneur, daughter of James Monroe; Emily Donelson, hostess for Andrew Jackson; Jane Irwin Findlay, hostess for William Henry Harrison; Betty Taylor Bliss, daughter of Zachary Taylor; Harriet Lane, niece of James Buchanan; Martha Johnson Patterson, daughter of Andrew Johnson, and Martha Harrison McKee, hostess for William Harrison. Only one President, Woodrow Wilson, is represented by two wives—Ellen Axson Wilson and Edith Bolling Wilson.

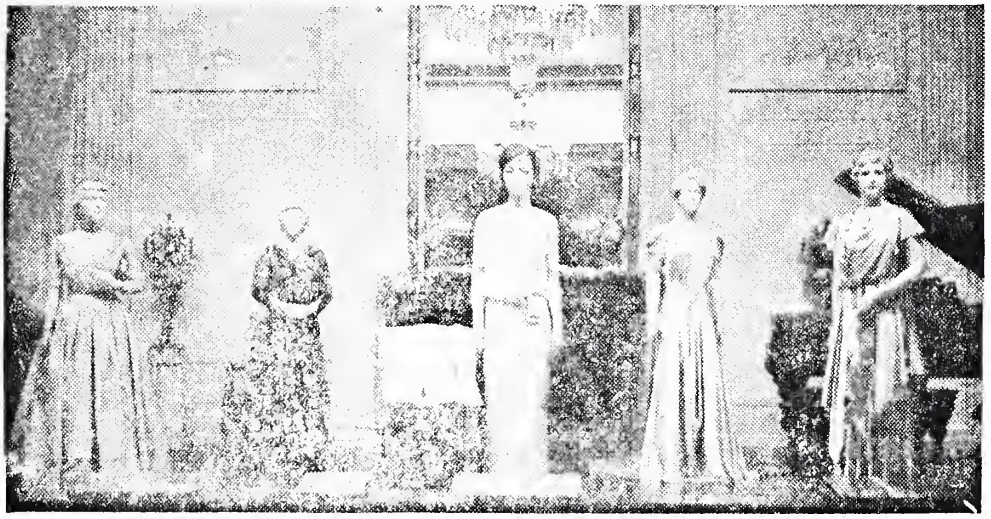
• • •

The last period, 1933 to the present, contains the figures of Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, Bess Wallace Truman, Mamie Doud Eisenhower, and Jacqueline Bouvier Kenned. The setting incorporates wood paneling, and a marble mantel and gold mirror all of which were removed during a recent renovation of the White House. Here, too, is the gold Steinway piano which had stood in the East room from 1902 until the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

A more detailed display of the history of American costume, both masculine and feminine is planned for the new Smithsonian building. The Mary Todd Lincoln gown will be among the treasures from which museum curators may choose exhibits of the future.

Chicago Sunday Tribune
Chicago, Illinois
December 30, 1962

Here's Something for the Girls: Smithsonian's First Ladies' Hall



The inaugural gown worn by Mrs. John F. Kennedy (center) is now on display as an addition to the Smithsonian Institution's collection of First Ladies, special dresses. The other gowns (from left) were worn by Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mrs. Harry Truman, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Mrs. Herbert Hoover.

Mrs. Harold Welch of Springfield, Ill., models a white taffeta dress and black lace shawl worn by Mary Todd Lincoln during her White House days. Mrs. Welch presented both to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. The shawl is now being displayed on the arm of the mannequin of Mrs. Lincoln in the First Ladies' hall.

Dispatch
Springfield, Illinois
No. 11
May 1963

THE MARY TODD LINCOLN DRESS which was presented to the Illinois State Historical Library is displayed by Mrs. Olive S. Foster, left, director of school services for the library, and Mrs. Jane Emerson of the library staff. Shown with them is Alvin S. Keys of Springfield, donor of the heirloom. Mrs. Lincoln wore the dress a hundred years ago when she posed for the picture at the right, which was taken in Washington by Civil War photographer Mathew B. Brady.

MARY TODD LINCOLN DRESS GIVEN TO HISTORICAL LIBRARY

A dress which Mary Todd Lincoln wore one of the few times she had her photograph made was recently presented to the Illinois State Historical Library by Alvin S. Keys of Springfield, a grandson of Levi O. Todd, one of four brothers of Mrs. Lincoln.

State Historian Clyde C. Walton, who received the dress for the library, said that it will be put on exhibit there as soon as a suitable display cabinet can be designed and constructed.

The dress is made of black taffeta delicately embroidered with scattered clusters of leaves and fruit in shades of lavender and smaller sprigs in green and gold. The very full sleeves are edged with narrow bands of pleated purple and green silk, and the collar is white lace.

The picture for which Mrs. Lincoln posed in this dress was taken by Civil War photographer Mathew B. Brady in his Washington studio, probably in 1861, according to Walton.

"Mrs. Lincoln was very reluctant to have her picture taken," Walton explained. "She posed once with her sons, Willie and Tad, and several times in dresses that she particularly liked, and that was all. There are no known photographs of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln together. It is said that she had the idea that her hands appeared larger than they should in photographs."

THE LIVING MUSEUM

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1971
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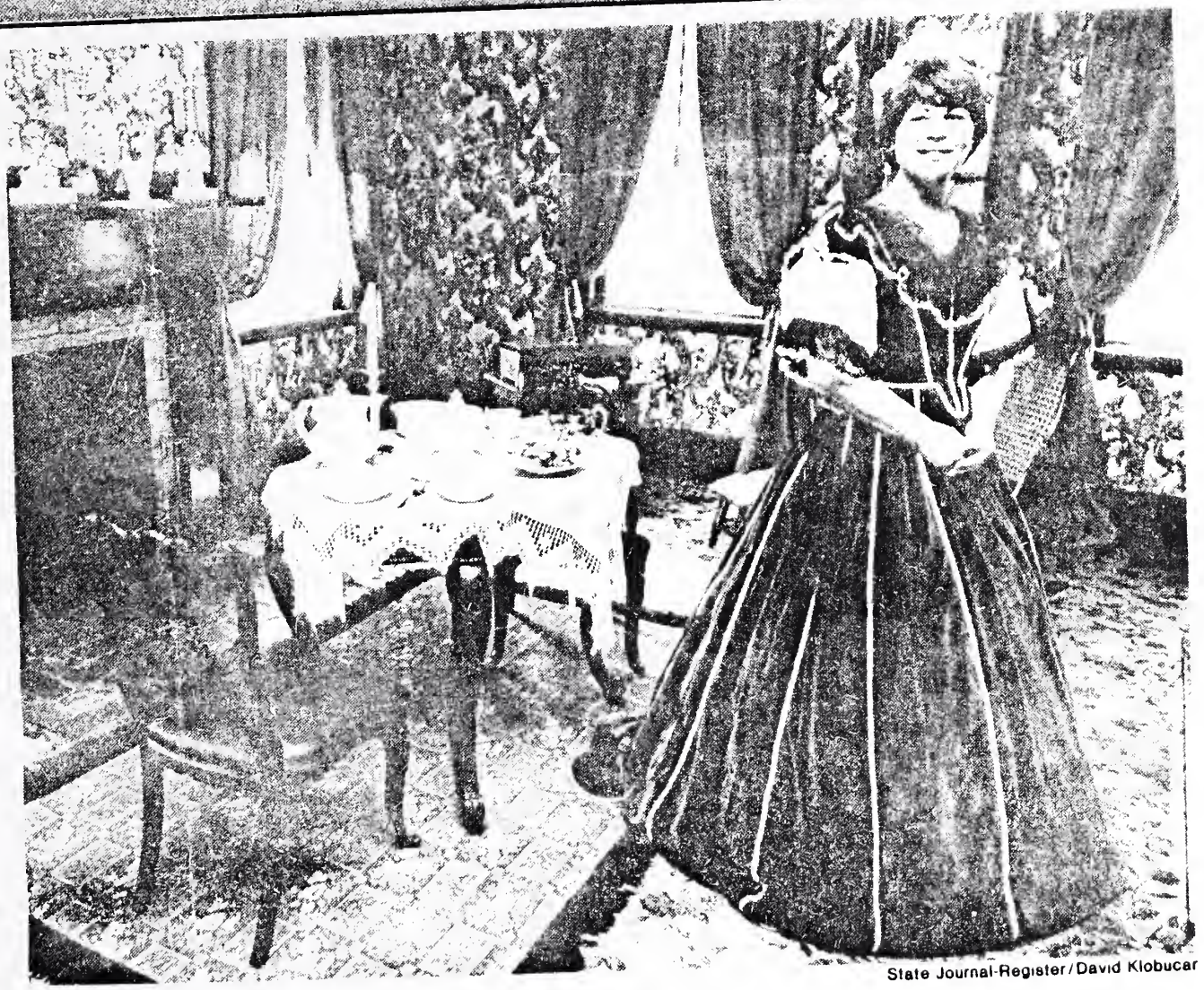
NO. 1

Figurines of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and Mrs. Ninian Wirt Edwards
(Photo by Marlin W. Roos) *(See Page 10)*

Cover: Mary Todd Lincoln (seated), wife of Abraham Lincoln, and her sister, Elizabeth, who married Ninian Wirt Edwards in Kentucky. Mary Todd, who was also born in Kentucky, met Lincoln in her sister's Springfield home in 1839 and married him there in 1842, eighteen years before he was elected president. Dresses ca. 1860.

Mrs. Lincoln's look-alike

to wear a new replica of an old dress



State Journal-Register/David Klobucar

Springfield, Illinois, State Journal-Register
February 13, 1983 (?)

Mrs. Lincoln's dress

by Julie Cellini

The Lincoln look-alike usually gets most of the attention at the annual open house at the Lincoln Home, but Mary Todd Lincoln gets her share of questions too.

"The women seem to like to hear about Mrs. Lincoln," says Mary Schultz, who has impersonated Lincoln's wife for the past four years. "They especially want to know about the dress."

This year, she'll have plenty to tell them. The dress has been completely reworked to resemble the original, which is on display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

The Junior League of Springfield commissioned a replica 12 years ago, but it fell into disrepair after frequent use at Lincoln functions. When it came time to refurbish the dress, members contacted the Smithsonian for better pictures of it.

"The pictures they worked with before might not have been as clear," explains Ruth Ann Mazrim, the league member who tackled the restoration job. Mazrim has her own custom applique business.

Mazrim taped up pictures of the original gown — purple velvet with an elaborate lace, ribbon and braid neckline — to the walls of her workroom.

"I left them there for weeks, and I'd just stare at them and study them from a distance," she laughs. "It was a challenge."

The dress was one of the first with any color worn by Mrs. Lincoln after the death of her son, Willie, in February

△ continued on page 2

Smithsonian Institution

Right, Mary Schultz wears a reproduction of Mary Todd Lincoln's dress in the sitting room of the Lincoln Home. Above, the original dress on display at the Smithsonian. Mrs. Lincoln wore the purple, black and white dress at a White House reception after a period of mourning for her son, Willie.

▲ from page 1

1862. Worn at a White House reception in fall 1863, the unusual color combination of purple, black and white was considered acceptable after a year of wearing only black, according to Margaret Clapthor, curator for the Hall of the First Ladies at the Smithsonian.

Mazrim repaired seams of the replica, adding white satin cording to the skirt and giving the sleeves the billowing look popular in the 1860s.

The elaborate neckline posed the most difficulties, Mazrim says. "I couldn't find black lace locally, so I had to go to St. Louis for it," she explains. She gave up trying to find a modern version of the chenille fringe and improvised her own with yarn loops.

She also made the neckline higher than the original gown, to accommodate the different league volunteers who will wear the dress.

For the floral headdress, Mazrim enlisted the services of another league member, Trudy Daily of Illusions, a flower design shop. Daily was able to approximate the look of the paper-flower original using contemporary silk flowers.

Daily also suggested adding an antique fan to the ensemble.

After 30 hours of work on the project, Mazrim is fairly satisfied with the results.

"The original (replica) dress was not as dressy and elegant as it should have been," she says. "It was tricky, taking it apart and putting it back together, but it was fun seeing it turn into an elegant looking gown."

Schultz couldn't be more enthusiastic about wearing the new dress at the Lincoln Home reception Sunday.

"I think it's more beautiful than ever," she says. "I always feel a little psychic putting on the dress and sitting in the parlor and knowing this is where she lived, this is where she raised her children."

Other league members will also wear old-fashioned formal attire at the levee-style reception, and from 1-4 p.m. Charles Ott of Lincoln will portray the president.

The reception commemorates Lincoln's 174th birthday and the levee held shortly before the Lincolns left Springfield for Washington.

The Washington Times

TOPICS / Judy Frank

How Mary Todd Lincoln kept herself on the bet-dressed list

More U.S. presidents were born under the sign of Aquarius than any other in the zodiac; presidential birthdays come thick and fast now.

To celebrate Lincoln's birthday, you could go to Newport News, Va., Saturday at 11 a.m. for the christening and launching of the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) with Mrs. James H. Webb, Jr., acting as sponsor. Service dress blue is the order of the day. Or you could see Lincoln's life and times in an interesting new light by reading Jean H. Baker's recent biography of Mary Todd Lincoln (Norton, $19.95, 429 pages).

Mrs. Baker makes a fascinating case study of Mrs. Lincoln, pointing out how often her plucky, independent nature was in conflict with prevailing mores. Had she been pliant and demure, public opinion might have been kinder to her.

I suspect she'd have been more highly regarded if she'd stayed away from haute couture. Reading this splendidly documented account, one can't help noting how often Mrs. Lincoln stubbed her toe on her wardrobe, was sabotaged by her camouflage. They say, "Clothes make the man," but hers were her undoing. Threads unraveled the fabric of her life.

During Mary Lincoln's high-stepping days, the miracle of American ready-to-wear was still glimmering in the future, but already the newspapers were full of advertisements of finished goods, mostly for men and children. A woman with disposable income bought "yard goods" for her clothes — high-style dresses required 10 yards of fabric in the 1850s — and worked out designs with her seamstress, milliner, mantua maker, or perhaps a poor relation skilled with her needle.

In April 1859, Abraham Lincoln collected almost $5,000 from the Illinois Central Railroad in contested legal fees. Again, his wife had money to spend. That same month, she spent $40 at a Springfield dry goods store for 16 yards of fabric plus notions; when her plaid silk dress was finished in July, the seamstress was paid $38. Mary Lincoln's clothing bill for that year was almost $200, at a time when a family of five could live comfortably on $400.

During her years as first lady, Mary Lincoln's attire was one of the reasons she was known as "The Illinois Reine." Mrs. Lincoln followed the sartorial star of the Empress Eugenie who showed up, according to the Washington Daily Chronicle's account, "in a pale tulle dress completely covered with violets. At the heart of each violet sparkled a diamond — 800 in all."

Clearly this upped the fashion ante. Mrs. Lincoln set her White House seamstress Elizabeth Keckley to work on a home-grown version of Eugénie's dress that took 25 yards of fabric.

Mary Todd Lincoln's taste for expensive clothes led her deeply into debt.

It was the ex-slizzie Keckley who sewed 60 [illegible] bows and hundreds of black [illegible] on the heavy white silk d[illegible]Mary Lincoln wore for the new Brady photograph shown, taken in November 1861. Keckley later reported that by [illegible]Mary Lincoln's clothing debt soared to $70,000.

Mrs. Baker says $10,000 is closer to the truth; the lesser amount was a mortal debt. Her clothing mania put her in deep trouble. To keep her debts secret from her husband she made such further extravagant purchases as the $1,000 camel's hair shawl ordered from New York merchant Alexander Stewart. She felt if she continued to purchase more merchandise to keep account active she would not be immediately billed for earlier purchases.

Dressed as she is in the photograph shown here, Mrs. Lincoln's display of creamy shoulders offended many. Sen. James Nesmith of Oregon disapproved of "the weak-minded Mrs. Lincoln and her sorry show of skin and bones. She had her bosom on exhibition, a flower pot on her head . . . " She, who had once been accustomed "to cook Old Abe's dinner and milk the cows," now was wont to exhibit her milking apparatus to public gaze."

The high cost of low-cut clothes was one reason Mrs. Lincoln was ambitious for her husband's re-election to a second term. For Old Abe there was the luxury of remaining honest while his wife secretly sold patronage to raise cash for clothing debts and bullied supporters into giving her expensive dresses.

She explained to Mrs. Keckley, "The President glances at my rich dresses and is happy to believe that the few hundred dollars that I obtain from him supply all my wants. I must dress in costly materials. The people scrutinize every article that I wear with critical curiosity. If he is elected, I can keep him in ignorance of my affairs, but if he is defeated, then the bills will be sent to him."

Mary Lincoln once explained to a childhood friend that she intended to marry a man who would take her to the theater. By this she presumably meant someone who could fill her life with city delights, giving her places to strut in her finery. We who live in the same town as Ford's Theater can't ignore the prophecy. (And as the late, great Rev. C. Leslie Glenn used to wonder, "What was Lincoln doing at the theater on Good Friday in the first place?")

History records that on April 14, 1865, Mrs. Lincoln wanted to stay in the White House and nurse a headache; as for the president, "His mind was fixed upon having some relaxation and bent on the theater."

When she went to the theater, she wore a becoming bonnet and a blue dress patterned with a small design. Whatever it cost, it was more than she could afford.

Dress of Mary Todd Lincoln

Ill. State Hist. Library

Springfield, Ill.

MARY TODD LINCOLN - ACC. 70138 - 1963

Neg. # 57631

The photograph on the preceding pages represents a parlor as it might have looked in the White House during the mid-nineteenth century.

The wallpaper was reproduced from a small piece of original White House paper found under several layers of plaster and paneling while the Executive Mansion was being renovated during the Truman administration. Original White House pieces include the marble mantel, installed during the Pierce administration, and the silver service on the table, which belonged to Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

The elaborately carved furniture of laminated rosewood was made by John Henry Belter, a New York cabinetmaker, from 1844 to 1863. Furniture similar to this was used in the White House in the mid-nineteenth century. The cloverleaf sofa is also typical of that period.

It was the era of the hoop skirt—as the dresses illustrate. Sarah Childress Polk (far right), who actively advised and assisted her husband, President James A. Polk, in his career, is wearing her inaugural ball gown of 1845. It is made of blue ribbed silk damask with a poinsettia design.

Mrs. Zachary Taylor, preferring the seclusion of her room, left the duties of First Lady to her daughter, Betty Taylor Bliss, the recent bride of her father's adjutant, Major William W. Bliss. "Miss Betty," as she was known, is standing at right of the window, wearing a daytime dress of greenish-brown grenadine trimmed with plaid borders. This is the last dress in the collection to have been made entirely by hand, for in 1846 the sewing machine was invented and all the later dresses have some machine sewing on them.

Standing at left of the window is Abigail Powers Fillmore who, as a young woman, became both teacher and inspiration to Millard Fillmore, the man she was to marry and see win the Presidency. Educated and cultured, Mrs. Fillmore was instrumental in establishing the first library in the White House. She is wearing a lavender taffeta dress with a brocade flounce. The handkerchief ring is an interesting costume accessory of the period.

The black dress worn by Jane Appleton Pierce is a keynote to the social life of the White House during the administration of President Franklin Pierce. Mrs. Pierce was in mourning for their only son, who was killed in an accident at the age of 12 shortly after the Presidential election. Her dress is made of black tulle embroidered with silver dots, worn over a black taffeta underdress. A little jacket of tulle and silver at first glance appears to be part of the dress itself. Mrs. Pierce holds the ends of the jacket. Her black lace and net cap is trimmed with velvet, jet beads, and gold.

First Lady during the administration of President James Buchanan, the only bachelor President, was his attractive niece, Harriet Lane (Johnston). In contrast to the restricted social life of the previous Pierce administration, this one was gay and charming. Miss Lane, though young, was entirely equal to the demands of the position of First Lady, even presiding without flaw during the visit of the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII of England) as a houseguest at the White House.

Miss Lane is represented (second from right) in her wedding dress of white moire taffeta trimmed with white satin and lace. The bridal veil of point lace is draped over the head of the mannequin. Miss Lane married Henry Elliot Johnston in 1866, a few years after her uncle had retired from public life.

The dress worn by Mary Todd Lincoln, the central figure in the room, is made of royal purple velvet. The seams are piped with white satin and each panel of the full skirt is of a different width. Mrs. Lincoln had a special fondness for clothes and chose her accessories with taste and care. Accompanying the dress are a fan made of purple silk and a matching parasol. The dainty gold wrist watch, which belonged to Mrs. Lincoln, is a very early and elegant example of this utilitarian accessory.

The horrors of the Civil War, domestic bereavement, and the fact that she was not accepted socially in Washington, then largely a city of Southerners, made Mrs. Lincoln's White House years unhappy. She vented her frustrations in an orgy of spending—buying handsome clothes and beautiful accessories for herself and elegant furnishings for the White House.

At far left in this room setting is Martha Johnson Patterson, daughter of President Andrew Johnson and wife of United States Senator David T. Patterson. She acted as First Lady in place of her invalid mother—and her calm, diplomatic tact made her a valuable asset to her father during his rather stormy administration.

Mrs. Patterson is not represented here by a dress, but instead by an evening cloak, known as a "burnous," which she wore during her White House years. It is made of finely woven wool, ornamented with gold braid and tassels, and has a gold tasseled hood, which may be worn over the head or pushed back.

FIRST LADIES DRESSES CURRENTLY EXHIBITED - NEGATIVE NUMBERS

IN FIRST LADIES EXHIBIT: (On mannequins without heads)	Negative Number
CLEVELAND, FRANCES	
*Doucet Dress (bodice & skirt)	92-1465-10
*Doucet Ensemble (three bodices & skirt)	92-1467 or 92-1470
*Wedding Dress	92-3649-9
EISENHOWER, MAMIE	
*Rose Matelasse Dress	91-19808-32
GARFIELD, LUCRETIA	
*1881 Inaugural Gown (in present color - not color corrected)	91-10693
GRANT, JULIA	
*Silver Damask Gown	91-19804-17
*Detail of Rose Patterned Fabric	91-4121
HARDING, FLORENCE	
*Iridescent Dress and Wrap	91-19801-44
*Iridescent Dress Only	91-19798-1
*Close-Up of Dress/Detail of Beading	91-19798-12
HARRISON, CAROLINE	
*1889 Inaugural Gown	92-1469-18
Detail of Burr-Oak Patterned Fabric	91-4138
HAYES, LUCY	
*1880 New Year's Reception Gown (side-front)	92-1468-6
* " " " " " (profile)	92-1466-1
*Detail of Rose-Patterned Fabric	91-4143
KENNEDY, JACQUELINE	
*Cassini Dress and Jacket	91-19806-5
*Cassini Dress only	91-19805-7
LINCOLN, MARY TODD	
*Striped Floral Dress	92-3644-5
*Close-Up of Bodice - Striped Floral Dress	92-3647-9
*Detail of Fabric	91-4113
MADISON, DOLLEY	
*Embroidered Open Robe	91-19795-44
*Detail of Embroidery	91-4148
MCKEE, MARY	
*1889 Inaugural Gown	92-1464-3
*Detail of Goldenrod Patterned Fabric	91-4127

ROOSEVELT, EDITH	
*1905 Inaugural Gown	92-1465-19
*Fabric Detail of 1905 Inaugural Gown	91-4131
ROOSEVELT, ELEANOR	
*1933 Inauguration Ceremony Dress	91-19807-13
WASHINGTON, MARTHA	
*Painted Silk Gown	92-3645-3
*Detail of Fabric (butterflies)	91-4112
*Detail of Fabric (four flower repeat) (current color - not color corrected)	91-4111
WILSON, EDITH	
*1916 Reception Dress	92-3646-26
ROOSEVELT/EISENHOWER/KENNEDY	
*Three dresses above - group photo	91-19796-32
*Close-up of three dresses	91-19808-22

IN CEREMONIAL COURT:
(On mannequins with heads)

BUSH, BARBARA	
*1989 Inaugural Gown	90-2502
CARTER, ROSALYNN	
*1977 Inaugural Gown	90-2505
FORD, BETTY	
*Green A-line Dress	90-2506
JOHNSON, LADY BIRD	
*1965 Inaugural Gown & Coat	90-2508
KENNEDY, JACQUELINE	
*1961 Inaugural Dress with Cape	90-2509
*1961 Inaugural Dress only	90-2510
NIXON, PAT	
*1979 Inaugural Gown & Jacket	90-2507
REAGAN, NANCY	
*1981 Inaugural Gown	90-2504

2004

IIC2

Mary Todd Lincoln (1818–1882)

First Lady 1861–1865

A2005

IIC2

Floral Striped Gown

Mrs. Lincoln wore this two-piece gown of off-white silk taffeta woven with black stripes and purple flowers for one of her sittings for photographer Mathew Brady in 1861. The gown has since been altered. Shown here is a day bodice created later in the 19th century and probably cut from one or more panels of the original skirt. The evening bodice shown in the Brady portrait no longer exists.

The gown was given to Elizabeth Grimsley, a cousin of Mary Lincoln, and came to the Smithsonian in 1964 from Grimsley descendants. Conservation treatment partially restored the 19th-century construction of the bodice, but the original neckline and long sleeves could not be restored.

Gift of Mrs. Harold Welch

2006

IIC2b

Mary Todd Lincoln, by Mathew Brady, 1861

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

2007 & 2008 photo label—2 side-by-side

IIC2c

Detail of Face and Reverse of Fabric

This complex fabric, probably French, was woven on a Jacquard loom. The narrow vertical black stripes were woven in with supplementary warps, and the purple floral motifs were hand-brocaded on alternate wide taffeta stripes. The intervening wide stripes are moiré; their wavy, watery patterns were imprinted after the fabric was woven by folding the fabric in half and heat-pressing it over a bar with notches the width of the band. The dye of the purple yarn is mauveine, or Perkin's purple, the first commercially produced synthetic dye.

Photograph by Diane Nordeck

Face

Reverse

Local Woman Has Lace Shawl Worn By Mrs. Lincoln

One of the priceless Lincoln relics which has Springfield as its resting place is a Spanish lace shawl of exquisite beauty, the property of Mrs. Mary G. Donaldson, 802 West Edwards street. The shawl of fine black lace and triangular in shape, was worn by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln at the inaugural ball when her husband became president of the United States.

Mrs. Donaldson's grandmother, Mrs. Harrison Grimsley, a cousin of Mrs. Lincoln, made her residence at the white house for a short time after the death of her husband. It was during her stay there that Mrs. Lincoln presented her with the shawl. Mrs. Grimsley, who later was married to Dr. John Brown, presented the shawl to her granddaughter, Mrs. Donaldson, about thirty-five years ago and it has been treasured by her since that time.